

Fariñas: Don't feast on my wife, family

STORY
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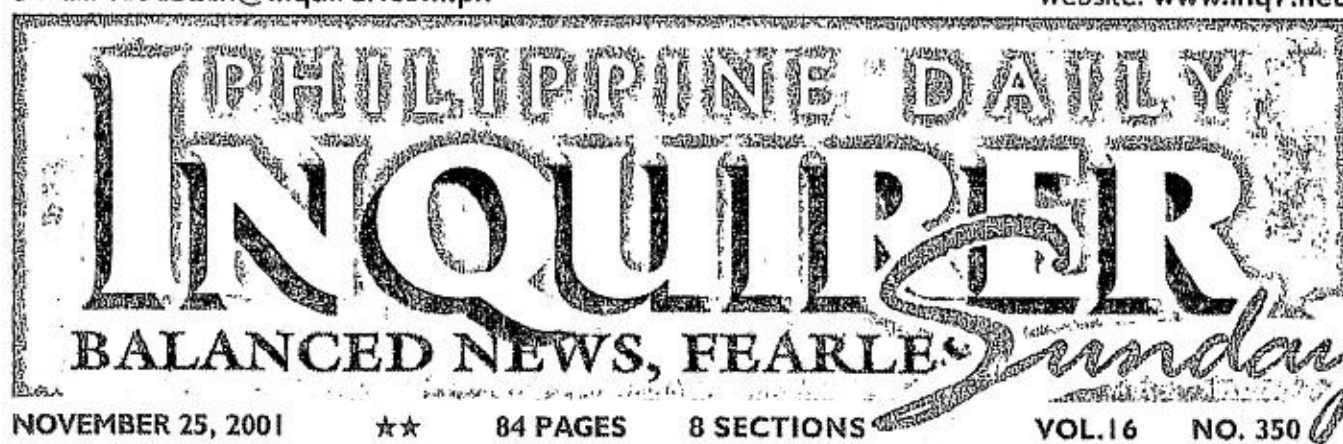
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Rene's logic baffling

BY VOLT CONTRERAS

DEPOSED President Joseph Estrada should undergo knee surgery in the United States, where health experts are currently puzzling over mysterious knee surgery deaths, because it is



RENE'S/A18

KATHERINE JONES, at her press briefing on Saturday, is secured by NBI agents.
JOAN BONDOC



'Murder case is far from over'

Nida's daughter says no one should be spared from probe

BY TJ BURGONIO

INVESTIGATORS should dig deeper into Nida Blanca's murder and not merely bank on the claims made by the man who had recanted his confession of guilt, the actress' daughter said yesterday.

Katherine Jones Torres, who read a brief prepared statement to the media, also said she was not surprised by confessed killer Philip Medel Jr.'s recantation Friday. But she refused to elaborate.

"At this point, the only thing I'm

sure about is that my mother's murder case is far from over and the quest for justice has not ended," Torres said in a two-minute briefing at the barangay hall of White Plains, Quezon City.

"I believe that no one should be spared from further investigation. And such investigation must be conducted with a higher level of efficiency and accuracy," she said.

President Macapagal-Arroyo announced in Kabankalan City that the NBI had taken over the Blanca murder case to ensure that there

would be no whitewash.

She said Medel's confession would not be thrown out despite his recantation, but that the National Police Commission would look into his claim of torture.

"We will wait for the results of the final investigation because the testimony of Medel, according to the police, was purely voluntary," she said.

Medel is now in the custody of the NBI.

In a violent outburst at the preliminary investigation of the Department of Justice, Medel claimed

to have been tortured by police into admitting that he killed Blanca and naming the actress' husband Rod Strunk as the mastermind.

Torres said that "as far as Medel's recantation is concerned, I was not surprised."

She also said she was now giving the National Bureau of Investigation "a free hand in conducting its own investigation and to use all efforts and resources at its command to track down the killers of my mom and bring them swiftly to justice."

MURDER/A6

Malaysia arrests Nur

Taliban resistance in Kunduz collapses

KABUL—Taliban fighters guarding the ousted regime's last foothold in northern Afghanistan began to surrender en masse Saturday, amid reports of opposition victories further south in the militia's heartland.

Commanders from the Northern Alliance—a loose coalition of anti-Taliban factions—said that up to 2,000 Taliban fighters had surrendered and that opposition forces would take control of the town today, Sunday.

The reported capitulation came as rival opposition leaders prepared for a conference on setting up a new broad-based government, and as a Pashtun tribal elder announced that a strategic southern town had also fallen.

TALIBAN/A18



VICTORY is in flower on the road to Kunduz where Taliban soldiers surrendered after a series of relentless assaults by the Northern Alliance on the ground and US bombing from the air.

GETTY IMAGES

'I may have been first person she asked for help'

BY NINI VALERA

IT WAS 1988. I was interviewing this lovely lady when she suddenly, secretly slipped me the tiniest note.

I quickly glanced at it, and it read, "Please help me, I am literally being tortured."

It may have been the first cry of help from Maria Teresa Carlson. Then, she was only 26 years old.

With her eyes, Carlson signaled to me not to show any reaction to what I had just read. Her husband, Rodolfo Fariñas, who was then governor of Ilocos Norte, was seated behind a huge desk only 3 feet away from us in the Fariñas' home in Laoag City. And he was cleaning his gun seemingly oblivious to the interview.

I was shocked. The romance of

Carlson and Fariñas had captivated the public attention. There was continuing interest in the union of the Fil-American beauty and a prominent politician who graduated from the Ateneo de Manila College of Law. Which is why I was there for an interview. The Carlson story was going to be a sidebar to a series of features on a post-Marcos Ilocos Norte.

A former teenage-beauty queen, Carlson had joined show business and at the time of her affair with the dashing governor, she was one of the stars of the top-rated 80's TV sitcom, "Chicks to Chicks."

Though they already had a child by the time I interviewed Carlson, I fully expected a couple who had yet to get over their honeymoon.

Like most celebrities, Carlson

was late for the interview. She made my photographer and I wait for two hours while Fariñas played the genial host.

When she finally came out to meet us, Carlson was in a stunning cobalt blue, long-sleeved, knee-length dress. Like the dress, Carlson was stunning. But I felt an unpleasant roughness in the palm of her

I MAY/A18

Mahathir has had enough of Moro rebel

KUALA LUMPUR—Malaysia gave him and his Moro rebels sanctuary in the 1970s. But Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad seems to have had enough of Nur Misuari.

Early yesterday morning, Malaysian police arrested Misuari, wanted in the Philippines for leading a bloody revolt on Monday, for illegally entering the country.

Inspector General of Police Norian Mai said that Misuari and six of his men were arrested at 3:30 a.m. on Saturday in Jampiras, an island just 30 minutes by boat from Sandakan town in Sabah, north of Borneo. Jampiras is the closest island to the Philippine-Malaysian international boundary.

Norian said Misuari and his men would be turned over to the Philippine government "as soon as possible," but he declined to say where they were being held.

Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad earlier ruled out granting asylum to the renegade governor of the Autonomous Region for Muslim Mindanao.

President Macapagal-Arroyo praised Malaysia for the swift arrest of Misuari whose faction in the Moro National Liberation Front attacked military and police camps in Jolo six days ago in a bid to stop the ARMM elections scheduled on Nov. 26.

MALAYSIA/A18

Fariñas: Please don't feast on my wife and my family

BY CRISTINA ARZADON
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

LAOAG CITY—"If I had any fault, please forgive me. But please don't feast on my wife. Make me a subject of your anger or vengeance but not my wife or my children. They have nothing to do with my public life and you have nothing to do with my private life," former Ilocos Norte Gov. Rodolfo Fariñas said in a press conference Friday night.

Earlier, the body of his wife, actress Maria Teresa Carlson, arrived at the Laoag International Airport.

Carlson killed herself early Friday morning. Her remains now lie in state at the house of her husband.

A nine-day wake will precede the burial at the Laoag Floral Garden.

More than 100 people led by Fariñas, his

eight children (two by a previous marriage), his siblings and relatives received the body when it arrived at the Laoag International Airport at 4:45 p.m. Friday, escorted by Ilocos Norte Representatives Imee Marcos and Roque Ablan Jr. and Laoag City Mayor Roger Fariñas.

It was immediately loaded into a van driven by Fariñas' eldest son, with the former governor on the passenger's seat, for the 8-km trip from the airport to the family residence.

Onlookers left their homes, offices and schools to watch the convoy of cars drive by.

At the house, visitors were barred from the living room while the immediate family members gathered around the casket. Later in the evening the casket was opened for public viewing.

In Manila, police looking into Carlson's apparent suicide discounted the possibility that

FARIÑAS/A18



ALL AGLOW

A house gift-wrapped in lights owned by Domeng and Baby Dallsay on Polcarpio Street in Mandaluyong makes a defiant statement to the Bin Ladens of the world: Christmas is coming. Let there be light, peace, goodwill to men.

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN



Cotabato cops kill 4 kidnappers

Wounded trader rescued with villagers' help

COTABATO CITY—Police killed four suspected kidnappers and wounded another in a shootout after they seized a trader in Kidapawan City at dawn yesterday.

Delfin Rasonable was rescued after M'lang villagers, responding to a police alert broadcast over radio, set up roadblocks using boulders tied to carabaos to stop passing vehicles.

Radio station dxND kept up a live broadcast of the kidnappers' movements and escape routes.

North Cotabato Gov. Emmanuel Piñol displayed the bodies of the slain gang members at the M'lang town plaza and warned would-be kidnappers: "This is what will become of you if you continue vic-

timizing our peace-loving citizens."

Piñol said the kidnappers were members of the "Pentagon" gang of rogue Moro guerrillas which is also believed to be holding Italian priest Giuseppe Pierantoni who was abducted in his Mindanao parish last month.

Pentagon vehicle

He said the suspects used a vehicle owned by Pentagon gang leader Sabilo Saguile, alias Commander Saguile.

Piñol told reporters at least five gunmen seized Rasonable in Kidapawan at dawn while the trader was about to open his Kidapawan Agricultural Supply shop.

The trader was hit in the head with a .45-caliber pistol when he tried to resist. He was then forced into a red Mitsubishi pick-up

which sped west toward M'lang, where at least two of the gang members lived.

About 30 minutes after the abduction, the gunmen's vehicle was stopped. As the kidnappers approached a police checkpoint manned by a combined police and civilian force, they opened fire, leaving four of the abductors dead and one of them wounded in the ensuing gunfight.

Police rushed Rasonable and the wounded gunman to a nearby hospital, where the kidnap victim was reported to be in a stable condition.

Shot once

Rasonable, who was conscious, told reporters the gunmen shot him at least once when they realized they were cornered.

Police identified the slain suspects as Mohammed Salik, Mama

Salik, both of Barangay Dungguan, M'lang; Rudy Mama and Tata Ali, both of Pikit town in North Cotabato.

The wounded suspect was Nols Akmad, 23.

Piñol said Kidapawan police had been on alert as early as Friday night, following reports that kidnappers planned to strike and snatch an engineer.

Kidapawan City Mayor Luis Malaluan said there were at least 50 "kidnappables" in the city.

Still being held by kidnappers is rice trader Martina Martin who was seized by the Pentagon kidnap gang in Libungan, North Cotabato last Nov. 4. Her captors are demanding a ransom of P15 million. *Edwin O. Fernandez and Charlie C. Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau, with a report from AFP*

Recruit Pinoys, US military urged

BY JULIET L. JAVELLANA

THE HOUSE committee on rules has endorsed to the legislature a resolution seeking to revive the recruitment of Filipinos into the US armed forces.

House Resolution 264, filed by Rep. James Gordon Jr., enjoins President Macapagal-Arroyo to make "earnest personal representations with the highest levels of the United States government for the revival of the recruitment of Filipinos" into the US military.

Gordon said in the resolution that the US practice of accepting Filipinos into its armed forces was stopped when the Philippine Senate terminated the RP-US Military Bases Agreement in 1991.

Seeking the revival of the practice, Gordon said, was timely "considering that the Philippines supports and joins the US and the rest of the world in combating terrorism and terrorists."

Gordon is the brother of Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon, a staunch supporter of the US mili-

tary bases who became the first head of the Subic Bay Freeport after the Americans left.

Gordon said having Filipinos in the US military would be beneficial to both countries.

Young Filipinos would be provided with employment, while the US will get a pool of skilled manpower, he said.

Following the Sept. 11 terror attacks on the US, officials of both countries are discussing a Mutual Logistics Support Agreement, which insiders have said would practically give the US access to their former bases in the country.

Gordon's resolution was approved without amendments by the House rules committee, paving the way for its possible adoption.

All 35 members of the committee—24 from the majority and 11 from the minority—joined Gordon as co-authors of the resolution.

House Majority Leader Neptali Gonzales II, committee chair, reported back to the chamber on Nov. 13 the committee's approval of the resolution.

'Arm the people? Heaven forbid'

THE FIRST and primary constitutional duty of government is to keep citizens safe from crime. It must therefore get guns off the streets.

This was the comment made by Gunless Society founder Nandy Pacheco yesterday in reaction to the govern-

ment's plan to let citizens arm themselves.

"Not a single day passes without a gun-related incident being reported in the media, the latest of which is the slaying of a Comelec official and the wounding of her son in their car last Tuesday in Sta. Ana, Manila," said Pacheco in a press statement.

He added: "Does the government realize that by advocating such action, it is admitting its

failure to do its constitutional duty to maintain law and order? By advocating such action, is it suggesting that the people take the law into their hands? Can the govern-

ment, the police or anyone, with all the neuro-psychiatric test, guarantee that any individual could ever be and continue to be a fit person to have access to guns?"

Pacheco said arming the law abiding is no solution.

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November 29, Thursday

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6:30 PM Cocktails and Welcome Reception

November 30, Friday

8:00 AM - 5:00 PM REGISTRATION
8:30 AM - 9:00 AM Opening Ceremonies
9:00 AM - 9:15 AM Opening of Exhibits
9:15 AM - 10:00 AM BREAK
10:00 AM - 11:00 AM Plenary Lecture 1
"Screening for Prostate Cancer: Evidence and Perspectives"
Speaker: Prof. Fritz H. Schroeder, MD (Netherlands)
Moderator: Jason L. Lefran, MD (Philippines)
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM Plenary Lecture 2
"Brachytherapy for Prostate Cancer"
Industry Sponsored Symposium
"Anti-Androgen Mono Therapy in Prostate Cancer-A Tribute to Rapidly Changing Patient"
Speaker: Prof. Fritz H. Schroeder, MD
Free Paper Presentation
3:00 PM - 3:30 PM BREAK
3:30 PM - 4:30 PM Poster Paper Presentation
4:30 PM - 6:30 PM Alumni Homecoming Fellowship
17TH PUA-Patriot Research Paper Contest
Master of Ceremonies - Michael Y. Leh, MD

December 01, Saturday

8:00 AM - 5:00 PM REGISTRATION
8:00 AM - 9:30 AM Breakfast Symposium
"Complete Androgen Blockade for Prostate Cancer"
Speaker: William Ellis, MD (USA)
Plenary Lecture 3
"Surgical Treatment of Carcinoma of the Prostate"
Speaker: E.C. Tan, MD (Singapore)
Moderator: Eduardo R. Gatchalian, MD (Philippines)
10:00 AM - 10:15 AM BREAK
10:15 AM - 11:15 AM Plenary Lecture 4
"Management of Locally Advanced Prostate Cancer"
Speaker: Prof. Fritz H. Schroeder (Netherlands)
Moderator: Juliana Z.K. Panganiban, MD (Philippines)
10:30 AM - 12:15 PM Opinion of the Experts
Interactive Discussion on the Prostate Cancer
PANEL:
Prof. Fritz H. Schroeder, MD
William Ellis, MD
E.C. Tan, MD
Abelardo M. Prodigalidad, MD
Case Presenter: Jason L. Lefran, MD
Moderator: Reynaldo C. dela Cruz, MD
Industry Sponsored Symposium
"The Recent Trend in the Hormonal Management of Prostate Cancer"
Speaker: E.C. Tan, MD (Singapore)
12:15 PM - 1:30 PM Master of Ceremonies - Ariel A. Zerrudo, MD
1:30 PM - 3:30 PM PUA Business Meeting
3:30 PM - 4:00 PM PBU Business Meeting
7:00 PM FELLOWSHIP NIGHT

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Gloria vows to file charges vs accuser

BY DONA Z. PAZZIBUGAN

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday changed her mind and decided after all to file charges against a telecommunications executive who had accused her and First Gentleman Mike Arroyo of blackmail.

Ms Macapagal is not suing for defamation or libel, however.

Through presidential legal adviser Avelino Cruz, the President ordered the National Bureau of Investigation to charge Pacifico Marcelo with falsification of public documents for lying about his citizenship.

Malacañang dug into immigration records and found that Marcelo is an American citizen. Marcelo allegedly misrepresented himself as a Filipino citizen to skirt a constitutional ban on foreigners owning more than 40 percent of local telecommunications firms.

Malacañang also looked into Marcelo's records at the Securities and Exchange Commission and learned that he is majority owner of Philippine Communications Clearinghouse Inc. and APC Wireless Network.

The two firms had been granted congressional franchises to operate which were vetoed by the President.

If they had been allowed to operate, both companies would have controlled the mobile telecommunications network in the country and earned billions of pesos in the process.

The President's ire was aroused when Marcelo told the media that Ms Macapagal had demanded majority control of his companies in

exchange for her recall of the vetoes.

"Mr. Marcelo's gall in pressuring this government may have been due to his condescending mindset that ours is a puny Third World country whose government can be easily bullied," presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said in a statement.

In a press conference the other day, Ms Macapagal denied Marcelo's charges.

She told reporters she did not have to sue Marcelo for libel because "nobody believes him anyway."

Yesterday, Tiglao revealed that Marcelo had "demanded" several business concessions from the President, including a P1-billion government contract, when they met at the Palace after the bribery controversy involving the First Gentleman broke out.

The meeting, which took place last month, had been initially described by Tiglao as a "cordial" meeting where Marcelo reportedly denied making the accusations against Mr. Arroyo.

Asked why Malacañang was revealing what really transpired at the meeting only now, Tiglao said it was "because we felt it was a private meeting. There was no reason to disclose it. But Mr. Marcelo is distorting it."

Tiglao said Marcelo asked the President not to use her veto power when he re-files his application for the two telecom franchises.

Marcelo also reportedly asked the President to order the DOTC to continue its Telepono sa Barangay project so he could supply the 1,800 phone booths needed for more than P1 billion.

He supposedly also asked the President to "pressure" the Philippine Long Distance Tel-

ephone Co. into granting him a contract to operate all existing card phone services and to enter into a joint venture with him for the setting up of 30,000 pay phones.

Tiglao said Marcelo accused the President of blackmail to get back at her for rejecting his demands.

"His motive? He thinks that if the government doesn't give in to his demands, he could go on a vilification campaign (against the President). And if he's a US citizen and his plan doesn't work, he could just pack up and leave," Tiglao said.

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Gloria ally-turned-critic eyes graft Hall of Shame

BY ARMAND N. NOCUM

THE PEOPLE'S Consultative Assembly will work to expose graft and corruption in government offices all over the country to show that the Macapagal-Arroyo administration has completely failed to curb government irregularities.

The results of the anti-graft drive will be revealed in a "Hall of Shame Awarding Ceremonies" in December, the PCA said at a press briefing yesterday.

The group, which claims to have helped install Ms Macapagal in power, said it would subject government officials accused of graft to a "people's trial."

"This whole thing will lead to some kind of renewal and cleansing which we all need," said PCA secretary general Ma. Linda Olaguer Montayre.

The PCA recently called on the President to resign, saying she has not only proven herself ineffective in bringing about reforms but has also been allegedly involved in irregularities together with her family members.

While Ms Macapagal publicly condemns corruption, the PCA statement said, she allegedly practices it to raise money to fund her campaign for the 2004 presidential elections.

"It is an open secret today that the whole government bureaucracy is corrupt starting with the Office of the President," the group added.

The PCA said friends of First Gentleman

Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo who have been appointed to various government posts topped the list of allegedly corrupt officials.

The group named Transportation Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez, who has been linked to the alleged P40 million telecoms bribery and the Piatco airport scams; the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office's Virgilio Angelo; the Naia's Ed Manda; the Pagcor's Efraim Genuino; the Philippine Coconut Authority's Efrén Villaseñor; and the presidential assistant for special concerns, Norberto Gonzales.

These officials, whom the PCA described as "Mike's boys," allegedly show that the Macapagal-Arroyo administration "focuses only on the commissions that can be skimmed off large contracts."

"It is a governance that will continue to coddle scams and scandal-linked" friends of Mike Arroyo, the PCA said.

Montayre said they have the evidence to nail the corrupt officials. She said some non-government organizations have also sent the PCA complaints and evidence of corruption in government.

She said one of these had to do with the issue of "ambassadorial positions for sale."

Montayre said the PCA has also identified graft cases in the environment, public works, internal revenue service, the customs bureau and the National Food Authority.

"It's like 'people power' never happened," Montayre said.

A murder every 90 minutes Ople: Let's go easy on dual citizenship

BY C. BALANA

A TOTAL of 4,868 murder cases were committed in the first 10 months of the year, an increase of 2 percent of 88 incidents over the figures reported during the same period last year.

This was disclosed yesterday by Senate Majority Leader Loren Legarda, an official of the Citizen Drug Watch, as she cited police statistics to back her claim.

According to Legarda, the figures meant an equivalent of 16 murder cases a day or one murder committed every 90 minutes.

She said the gruesome murder of movie actress Nida Blanca on Nov. 7 and the ambush-slay of the public relations director of the Commission on Elections Velma Cinco, continue to hog the headlines.

Murder is a capital offense punishable by life imprisonment or death by lethal injection.

Legarda said that she would support a congressional inquiry into the impact of capital punishment on the country's peace and order problem, particularly on heinous crimes such as murder, rape and illegal drug trafficking.

Anti-crime watch groups claimed that the reinstatement of the death penalty in 1994 was partly responsible for the sustained decline in murder cases.

Accordingly, murder cases dropped by an annual average of three percent from 1991 to 2000. A total of 5,735 cases were reported last year.

BY CYNTHIA D. BALANA

SEN. Blas Ople yesterday warned against dual citizenship for Filipinos as proposed by Senate President Franklin Drilon, saying the issue has far-reaching implications.

Ople said the Constitution abhors "double allegiance" and in fact directs Congress to enact legislation to deal with it.

"There is a very thin line between double allegiance and dual citizenship," he stressed.

"Dual citizenship for a Filipino sounds attractive but we should study the security and social implications of the proposal," he said.

Drilon pushed for the approval of the dual citizenship measure to benefit those who have acquired foreign citizenship.

President Macapagal-Arroyo also indicated her approval of the measure during her 10-day working visit to the United States where she met with several Filipino-American communities.

Ople said that the issue of dual citizenship raises the question of double loyalties.

"When the push comes to shove, where will the loyalty of the dual citizen lie?" Ople asked.

"Shall we allow naturalized Fili-

pino-Chinese or Filipinos of Chinese descent to owe a degree of loyalty to the People's Republic of China?" he continued.

Drilon has argued that the measure will encourage Filipinos who have become naturalized citizens of other countries to visit the Philippines more often and settle in the country permanently on their retirement.

His bill seeks to revise the 65-year-old law on Philippine citizenship which provides that natural born Filipinos who become naturalized citizens of other countries automatically lose their Philippine citizenship.

Drilon said that it is now time to re-examine this law in the rapidly becoming a borderless world.

He said 89 countries allow some form of dual/multiple citizenship, such as the United States, United Kingdom, Canada, France, Switzerland, Germany, Ireland, Russia, Cambodia, Taiwan, Vietnam, and 14 Latin American nations.

Drilon also said that traditionally nationalistic countries like Israel and Cuba also allowed their citizens to retain their citizenship after being naturalized in another country.

Drilon's bill has found an ally in Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon as this would help boost tourism tremendously.

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		Welcome Remarks	
		Orientation to Conference	
		Opening Remarks and Introduction of Keynote Speaker	
		Keynote Address	
9:00	9:30	COFFEE BREAK	
9:30	10:30	Introduction of the Speaker	
		Giftedness: Revisiting Concepts of Who Are "The Gifted" and How to Address Their Needs	
10:30	12:15	Open Forum	
10:30	11:15	Indicators Development	
11:15	12:15	Social Emotional Development of Gifted Students	
12:15	1:15	Open Forum LUNCH BREAK	
1:15	2:45	Presentation of Local Programs	
		Open Forum	
2:45	3:45	Models of Educational Programming for Gifted Students: A Menu of Choices for Communities	
3:45	4:15	Common Components of Successful Gifted Programs in the Philippines	
4:15	4:45	Open Forum	
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Groups oppose Alvarez at CA

SAYING he is "morally and legally unfit" to serve, several groups have vowed to oppose the confirmation of Pantaleon Alvarez as transportation and communications secretary.

Former Securities and Exchange Commission Chair Perfecto Yasay Jr., chair of the MIA-NAIA Association of Service Operators Inc. (Masos), accused Alvarez of "subverting the government's policy of transparency and good governance."

In a statement following a press conference at the Manila Yacht Club Friday, Yasay said Alvarez had placed personal gains over the country's interest when his construction firm Wintrack Builders won a contract from the contractor of Terminal 3 of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport. Alvarez had said he had divested himself of his interests in the firm.

"Alvarez, sad to say, has not acted in a manner reflective of the oft-repeated pronouncements of President Arroyo that her administration is based on good and transparent governance, free from taints of both graft and corruption," Yasay said.

Yasay claimed Alvarez, a former congressman, still had interests in Wintrack while the House committee on transportation and communications of which he was the vice chair, was investigating the agreement between the Philippine International Air Terminal Corp., the Terminal 3 builder and operator, and the government.

He said Wintrack was paid P56 million for the contract.

Referring to the Piatco contract, Yasay also said that Alvarez is implementing a contract, which violates the Constitution and other laws.

"When Alvarez implemented the concession agreement between the government and Piatco, knowing of its fatal vices, he was and is not acting with the discernment required of a department secretary."

Aside from Masos, 10 other groups, mostly from Pampanga, have submitted a position paper to the Commission on Appointments opposing the confirmation of Alvarez.

UP geology reunion set Nov. 30

FOR THE FIRST time in the 44-year history of the University of the Philippines' geology program, a reunion of its graduates will be held on Nov. 30.

The landmark event is scheduled at 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the National Institute of Geological Sciences (NIGS) Bldg. on C.P. Garcia corner Velasquez streets, UP Campus, Diliman, Quezon City.

Reunion chair Priscilla J. Militante-Matias said an exhibit of photos of geology students doing field work and other class activities would be mounted at the lobby. (Those who wish to join the exhibit may contact Sandra Catane at the NIGS.)

UP has produced more than 700 geologists, many of whom are now leaders in the various fields of the earth sciences. Among the more prominent alumni are Dr. Kelvin Rodolfo, Walter Brown and Dr. Raymundo Punongbayan.

For details on the reunion, call Tootsie de Leon at the NIGS, 929-6046, 929-6047, 920-5301 loc. 7455, 7111, 7118.

Contact persons are Sylvia Ramos, Paul Bernabe (PNOC), Cecile Benavidez, Arlene Magbanua (Department of Energy), Rolly Peña, Leo Virtucio (Mines and Geosciences Bureau) and Leyo Bautista (Phivolcs). Alumni are requested to contribute P500 each for the reunion.

MITSUBISHI
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Security pact to benefit Pinoys—Gloria

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo and other top government officials have been drumming the great benefit and importance of the security relationship with the United States while also underplaying a supposedly secret Mutual Logistics Support Agreement that would allegedly allow the US access to the bases it gave up in 1991.

Addressing a national advertising conference in Cebu City yesterday, the President said the security partnership with the US will underpin Philippine economic development "for many decades to come."

The "strategic importance" of US military aid should never be underestimated, the President said, "because for many decades to come, America will still be the only superpower in the world."

She said the tragedy of Sept. 11 has changed the global environment.

"In the face of further terrorist threats and of looming global recession, each country now has to strive for a greater political and economic security," she said.

"We have great uncertainties. Nobody must pretend that everything is nice," the President said.

Ms Macapagal returned from a visit to the US on Friday and secured from US President George W. Bush military aid worth \$100 million for the next 12 months as well as economic aid that includes \$1 billion worth of trade concessions and conditional debt relief worth \$430 million.

Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo said the members of the Philippine panel working on the proposed MLSA have been unanimous in saying it would bring much benefit to the Filipino people.

Speaking to reporters last Friday, Romulo decried the sinister motives being ascribed to the supposedly secret pact that some sectors alleged had been discussed during the President's visit to the US.

"Why would (the government keep it) a secret when it would benefit the country? It is unanimous. We all believe that the MLSA would be within the framework of the Constitution and the law," Romulo said.

The President has clarified that the MLSA is still in the draft and proposal stage, that there is as yet no agreement.

She has admitted that the draft agreement as it currently stands would give the Americans access to all ports and facilities in the country but stressed that she would not allow the US to maintain military bases in the country again.

Foreign Undersecretary Lauro Baja said the US and Philippine governments are to shortly begin negotiations for the MLSA under which the Pentagon could use Philippine facilities as forward silos for conventional weapons.

Baja said the government would insist that "all logistics support and supplies" on Philippine bases would be "temporary" in accordance with the Constitution.

The 1987 Constitution bans the sta-

tioning of foreign troops or nuclear weapons in Philippine territory.

"That must be overcome and there must be an element of temporariness whether it is transit or storage," Baja added.

Romulo said the MLSA would be an executive agreement, not a treaty, and as such would not need Senate ratification.

The Philippine military would benefit directly as it would receive refurbished military equipment from the US.

The first of the promised equipment, a C-130 military plane, will be arriving on Wednesday, the President announced yesterday.

The plane is part of the \$92.3 million worth of military equipment the US government promised President Macapagal-Arroyo for this year and next.

Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes said the other promised military equipment include a cyclone patrol boat worth \$15 million, 30,000 M-16 rifles and 100 6x6 trucks.

"We don't have (a cyclone patrol

boat) but because the President went there (to Washington) they gave it to us," Reyes said.

"Originally the 30,000 (M-16) rifles were of Category F, a poor kind. You really have to repair it. But it was upgraded to Category B, the operational kind," Reyes said.

The defense secretary said the package also includes a \$10 million fund for the upgrading of donated equipment, and another \$10 million for the anti-terrorism and anti-narcotics drives.

National Security Adviser Rolito Golez said the other day said the Armed Forces can also expect to get eight helicopters and another patrol boat.

Ms Macapagal said she expects more military aid packages.

"This is just for a start," she said, recalling Bush's commitment to give whatever she asks for.

She said the defense department is negotiating another \$150-million aid package for the Armed

Forces modernization.

"Maybe (this is the) first course. There's another \$150 million they are negotiating right now. Of the \$100 million (committed by Bush), that's already \$92.3 million that is very specific. We still have \$7 million headroom there," Ms Macapagal said.

Armed Forces spokesperson Edilberto Adan said several more helicopters are scheduled for shipment to the Philippines once the MLSA is signed and implemented.

The completion of the proposed MLSA is reportedly dependent on the inputs of the defense department.

Sources at the Department of Foreign Affairs said the MLSA is a rehash of the junked Acquisition and Cross Servicing Agreement between the Philippines and the US.

The only difference, they said, was the absence in the MLSA of a provision that provides for tax relief on the US logistics that would be coming into the base. *Norman Bordadora and Donna Pazzibugan with AFP*

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IMPORTANT: Grand draw is on December 15, 2001! Hurry! Send your entries on or before December 8, 2001 to join. The more entries you send, the more chances of winning the house of your dreams!

THE DAILY GOSPEL



Sunday, November 25, 2001
Christ the King

1st Reading:

2 S 5:1-3
All the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron and said, "We are your bone and flesh. In the past, when Saul was king over us, it was you who led Israel. And Yahweh said to you, 'You shall be the shepherd of my people Israel and you shall be commander over Israel.'" Before Yahweh, King David made an agreement with the elders of Israel who came to him at Hebron, and they anointed him king of Israel.

2nd Reading:

Col 1:12-20
Constantly give thanks to the Father who has empowered us to receive our share in the inheritance of the saints in his kingdom of light. He rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son. In him we are redeemed and forgiven.

Christ is the beginning of everything
He is the image of the unseen God, and for all creation he is the firstborn, for in him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible: thrones, rulers, authorities, powers...
All was made through him and for him.
He is before all and all things hold together in him.
And he is the head of the body, that is the Church, for he is the first, the first raised from the dead that he may be the first in everything, for God was pleased to let fullness dwell in him.
Through him God willed to reconcile all things to himself, and through him, through his blood shed on the cross, God establishes peace, on earth as in heaven.

Gospel: Lk 23:35-43
The people stood by watching. As for the rulers, they jeered at him, saying to one another, "Let the man who saved others now save himself, for he is the Messiah, the chosen one of God!"

The soldiers also mocked him and when they drew near to offer him bitter wine, they said, "So you are the king of the Jews? Free yourself!" For above him was an inscription which read, "This is the King of the Jews."

One of the criminals hanging with Jesus insulted him, "So you are the Messiah? Save yourself and us as well!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Have you no fear of God, you who received the same sentence as he did? For us it is just: this is payment for what we have done. But this man has done nothing wrong." And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." Jesus replied, "Truly, you will be with me today in Paradise."

Commentary
The cross of Jesus reveals that he is a king. But, he is a very different king from those we read about. He is a suffering king. The cross is his throne. The greatest of his suffering on the cross is the mockery of his kingship that he receives from the very people he is sent to be king. The leaders of the people and the soldiers mock him. Last of all, even a criminal insults him. But, the other criminal become a witness for his innocence. Then he asked Jesus his king to remember him in his kingdom. Jesus responds by granting mercy to this criminal even at the last hour. Jesus proves to be a savior-king.

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SUPREME COURT
DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (SPECIAL PROCEEDINGS)—*Habeas corpus*—*Habeas corpus* is a writ directed to a person detaining another, commanding the former to produce the body of the latter at a designated time and place. Section 1, Rule 102 of the Rules of Court provides that "the writ of habeas corpus shall extend to all cases of illegal confinement or detention by which any person is deprived of his liberty, or by which the rightful custody of any person is withheld from the person entitled thereto." The objective of the writ is to determine whether the confinement of detention is valid or lawful. If it is, the writ cannot be issued. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Panganiban, Third Division, *Tung v. Rodriguez*, G. R. No. 141938, April 2, 2001]

DIGEST BY R. B. VERA

'Murder case is far from over'

(From page A1)

The Philippine National Police's Task Force Marsha headed by Director Nestorio Gualberto had been handling the case since the start. It was the task force that presented Medel to the media on Nov. 19.

Gualberto, who also chairs the PNP Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, said Friday that the task force would press ahead with its probe despite Medel's retraction.

'Text us'

Torres again appealed to the public "to help solve the case" and read out a number—0917846NIDA—to which text messages containing information could be sent to her family.

"I would like to thank those who love my mommy. I hope that you would continue your prayers so that justice will be achieved," she added.

After reading her statement and taking three questions from the media, Torres rose and left the hall.

"There are constraints to what she can comment on. That's why the press conference was brief," Noel de la Paz, a nephew of Blanca's, said by way of explanation.

Asked about how the family viewed Medel's recantation, De la Paz said: "We're just as confused as everybody else in terms of the theories being bandied about."

He also said Torres saw no need to move out of the house in White Plains that her mother shared with Strunk.

"She's still with my uncle," he said in reference to Blanca's husband of 22 years.

'Our duty'

But even as the NBI appears to have taken over not only the investigation of the case but also the security of Blanca's only child, Task Force Marsha investigator Supt. Eric Velasquez said they had not been taken out of the probe.

"We have not received any order to stop our investigation. It's our duty to solve crime. In fact,

even if there's no complainant we can do our own investigation," Velasquez said in an interview.

But he said it was all right with them if the NBI had indeed taken over. "There's no problem (as to) which agency will lead the case," he said. "It doesn't matter. We'll just substantiate and corroborate the findings of the NBI."

An NBI official who requested anonymity told reporters that the bureau was providing 24-hour security to Torres.

The official said it was Torres herself who requested the security detail because she had supposedly lost "trust" in the PNP.

"We will be keeping her under watch 24 hours a day at her White Plains residence," he said.

He also said Torres was "displeased" with the way the PNP had been handling the investigation.

Not new

In Kabankalan, PNP Director General Leandro Mendoza said the recantation of a key suspect was not new in police investigation.

He said similar incidents in the past had also resulted in the conviction of suspects who, like Medel, had recanted admissions of guilt.

The more important concern, according to Mendoza, is whether there is truth to Medel's claim that he was tortured.

Mendoza said the PNP had other witnesses to corroborate Medel's earlier testimony, and was awaiting the results of the laboratory analysis of the physical evidence gathered from the crime scene.

In a phone interview with the PDI Visayas Bureau, Task Force Marsha spokesperson Senior Supt. Leonardo Espina described Medel's recantation as a good drama script.

Espina reiterated that Medel was not tortured into confessing and that it was he who told police how Blanca's killing was carried out.

"He went dramatic, but bear in mind that he was the one who supplied us the minutest details of how

the killing happened," Espina said.

He said they were trying to determine what prompted Medel to recant.

He also said that Medel's lawyer was present at the execution of the 10-page sworn statement, and that this was even covered by video.

In Manila, the task force played the videotape taken inside the CIDG office on the night of Nov. 18.

The tape showed a calm Medel casually signing his statement and talking to task force investigator Senior Supt. Jesus Versoza.

One portion showed Medel replying "no" to State Prosecutor Emmanuel Velasco, who asked if he had been tortured into signing his statement, and "yes" to Velasquez, who asked if he understood what he had just executed.

"Personally I felt that he might recant or say later that he was tortured," Velasquez said. "So I suggested that we videotape the proceedings."

The proceedings lasted for at least two hours.

Loopholes

A ranking NBI official confirmed that Medel was an asset of the PNP and of the intelligence community.

And he is "very intelligent," said the official who asked not to be named.

The official said Medel was "in his right mind" when he executed his statement, and he did it in such a way that it would be full of "loopholes," to give him a way out later.

"He's an asset. Very intelligent. He knows what to do. Look, he even submitted a handwritten statement," the official said, adding:

"He concocted all those stories. His statement was a complete lie. The problem is that the PNP (Task Force Marsha) took his statement at face value."

The official also said the presentation of Medel to the media on Nov. 19 was a "badly scripted police show."

NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco declined to comment on the issue.

But Edmund Arugay, chief of the NBI-National Capital Region, said investigators were not completely disregarding Medel's statement.

"We are assessing his testimony and recantation. We'll see later if he can still be used in this case," Arugay told the INQUIRER.

He added: "As declared by the NBI director on Friday, nobody is off the hook yet."

Arugay also said he and his men had not stopped investigating the Blanca murder since Day One. "But the PNP is the lead agency, so we are keeping a low-profile stance," he said.

Pogi points

Sen. Teresa Aquino-Oreta assailed Interior Secretary Joey Lina and Justice Secretary Hernando Perez for immediately presenting Medel to the public, ostensibly in order to score "pogi" points.

The two officials were present at the Nov. 19 press conference.

"These officials should take the blame for the current state of disarray that has beset the Nida Blanca murder case following Medel's outburst," Oreta said.

According to Oreta, Medel's recantation undermined the credibility of the police investigation and raised the need to stop the presentation of suspects before formal charges had been filed against them.

She said heads should roll if it was found that Medel had indeed been tortured.

Oreta earlier filed Senate Bill No. 874, which seeks to bar law enforcers from presenting to the public criminal suspects without pending court cases.

The bill was filed long before the Blanca case hogged the headlines. *With reports from Michael Lim Ubac, Jerome Aning and Cynthia D. Balana in Manila; Carla P. Gomez and Tonton A. Antogop, PDI Visayas Bureau*

This space was provided by Philippine Daily Inquirer, a Corporate Partner of WWF-Philippines.

PHILIPPINE DAILY
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Teachers demand overdue Ecola

BY VOLT CONTRERAS

THE ALLIANCE of Concerned Teachers yesterday demanded the payment of some P30 billion in emergency cost of living allowance (Ecola) to the country's half a million public school teachers.

Ecola is a supposedly non-taxable financial benefit for government employees that was discontinued during the Aquino administration, said ACT Vice Chair Benjie Valbuena.

In a press forum, Valbuena said the long-due Ecola for teachers can be taken from the multi-million peso assistance package which President Macapagal-Arroyo was reported to have brought home from her recent US trip.

"We're willing to get it by installment, you know. We just want the government's commitment on this," he said. "We can talk about how much the government can afford for now."

Another option

Another option is to ask Congress to realign some items in the government's education budget for 2002 in order to accommodate even a fraction of the overdue Ecola payments, he added.

ACT leaders are set to meet with the Department of Budget and Management tomorrow to press this demand. They had also made an appeal to Education Secretary Raul Roco in a letter dated Nov. 22.

According to Valbuena, most teachers were receiving up to P500 each per month as their Ecola when it was discontinued in 1989.

"If we are to compute how much the government owes us, each qualified employee should be receiving P60,000 each. And if we are to peg the number of DECS employees at 5 million, the government owes its education workers P30 billion."

That government employees are entitled to this pay is already affirmed by a Supreme Court resolution issued in August 1998, he said.

Before that, the Ecola issue had already triggered a "protest mass leave" staged by 3,000 teachers in 1990, and two hunger strikes several years later.

RP needs to advertise strong points—Gloria

BY MARGIE QUIMPO-ESPINO

CEBU CITY—An awareness of the country's economic fundamentals and a little push from the chief executive were all it took for American officials to put together the \$4-billion package of benefits that President Macapagal-Arroyo took home from her recent US visit.

The President, however, said she is convinced the Philippines still needs to advertise its strong points to the world to boost the country's economy.

The President narrated to the more than 2,300 delegates to the 17th Philippine Advertising Congress in Cebu yesterday how she was able to wangle the \$4-billion worth of concessions, quota allocations and military aid from the US during her nine-day trip.

"The important thing is you give them (Americans) the good news. They already know the bad news," she said. "The Philippines has all the fundamentals but they did not know about it."

She said Americans and Filipinos she spoke to in the US were not aware of the 3.4 percent growth posted by the Philippines in the past months.

"They thought we were in a recession like everybody else," she said, adding that the growth rate was supported by a huge domestic market.

Ms Macapagal pointed out that US President George W. Bush was "a good advertiser for the Philippines" during her visit.

She said Bush talked about the strides the Philippines has made against the Abu Sayyaf terrorist group in a statement he made after a meeting with the president of Nicaragua, the day after he met with Ms Macapagal.

She said Bush's positive statements on the Philippines were reported in the major American TV networks, newspapers and CNN.

The President said positive news about the Philippines should be reported by international news agencies and the way for them to pick it up is for local newspapers to report it.

"I cannot always go to the US to give them the good news," Ms Macapagal said.

She called on the members of the advertising industry to help the government put more good news in the newspapers.

"There are other ways to make media say nice things. It's not the government they listen to, it's the advertisers," she said.

She also called on the advertising industry to help the government market the Philippines.

"There is a lack of marketing. The government needs the support of the advertising industry. We should advertise ourselves," the President said.

Namfrel to conduct ARMM quick count

THE NATIONAL Citizens' Movement for Free Elections yesterday announced that it was accredited by the Commission on Elections to conduct an Operation Quick Count for Tuesday's elections in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

A resolution promulgated on Thursday by the Comelec en banc, entitles Namfrel to the fourth copy of the election returns which will be the bases for the conduct of the quick count.

Namfrel said it would also be fielding around 1,700 volunteers to be organized as teams of two to serve as Municipal Roving Observers and will be developed in approximately 94 municipalities. The volunteers were advised, however, to not unnecessarily expose themselves to security risks in the observation of the administration and conduct of the elections.

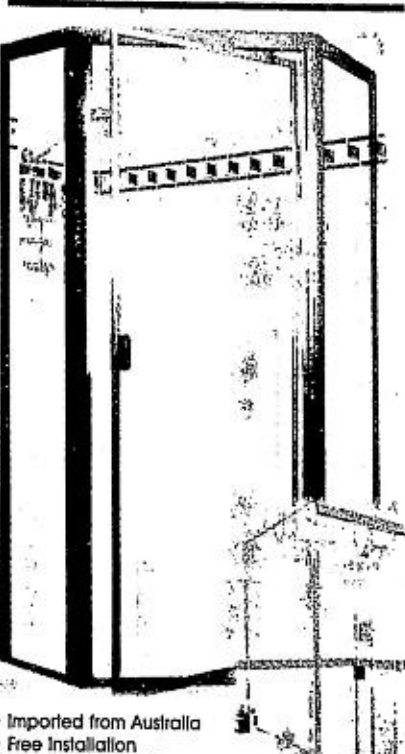
The results of the elections tabulated by the OQC centers in the Philippines today, cataract surgery, in all its forms, is performed routinely on patients throughout the country.

PRESIDENT Macapagal waves to delegates of the Philippine Advertising Congress in Cebu City.

TONEE DESPOJO



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What you need to know about the two leading causes of blindness in the Philippines - Cataracts and Glaucoma.

Loss of vision can be prevented. Proper eye care and education play important roles in avoiding blindness.

Cataracts - the leading cause of blindness in the country today.

What is a cataract?

A cataract is simply the clouding of the lens of the eye. Normally, light passes through the clear lens and is focused onto the retina. However, as a result of the normal aging process, trauma, or certain medical conditions, the lens becomes cloudy. The cataract or cloudy lens blocks the passage of light through the eye and causes distorted or blurred vision.

Early detection and Symptoms of Cataracts:

Some early symptoms of cataract include increased glare, ability to see better in dim lights than in bright lights, loss of sharpness of colors, slight haziness of vision, and sometimes double vision. Any one or a combination of these symptoms may signal the start of a cataract.

Treatment of Cataracts:

Cataracts are a progressive condition of the eye and will ultimately lead to blindness. This however, can be prevented.

During early stages of the cataract growth, eye drops and eyeglasses may temporarily provide restored vision but over time, the eyesight will eventually deteriorate and cataract surgery will have to be performed. Cataract blindness is reversible.

The most modern means to remove cataracts is through Small-Incision Surgery (also known as Stitchless Cataract Surgery). The technical term for this is phacemulsification.

Small-Incision Surgery, uses ultrasound technology that allows surgeons to effectively remove cataracts through incisions as small as 3 mm without the need for stitches. This enables the patient to recover much faster. Most cataract surgery today is performed on an out-patient basis.

Other types of cataract removal such as Extra-capsular Cataract Surgery and Lensectomy, may still be required for certain types of cataracts such as when the lens has been dislocated or the cataract has been neglected by the patient resulting in a severe hardening or blackening of the cataract.

Furthermore, through the "Vision 20/20 program", the PAO and the DOH are addressing this problem around the country by means of surgical missions and public education.

Glaucoma - the country's second leading cause of blindness but with more damaging effects.

What is Glaucoma?

Glaucoma is a disease that can cause irreversible damage to the optic nerve as a result of abnormal eye pressures. The build-up of pressure to the optic nerve is caused by insufficient drainage of the aqueous humor, a liquid that continually flows in the eye (separate from tears).

The optic nerve carries thousands of messages from the eye to the brain that join together and provide us with our vision. The build-up of pressure can damage the optic nerve fibers, causing blind spots to develop and eventually lead to total blindness.

There are four types of glaucoma:

1. **Primary Chronic Open-Angle Glaucoma** - primarily caused when the drainage becomes less efficient due to an abnormality in the microscopic meshwork inside the eye resulting in a gradual increase in eye pressure. This condition is often painless and generally unnoticed until advanced stages wherein permanent damage has already been made on the optic nerve.

2. **Angle-Closure Glaucoma**- this condition occurs when the eye drainage is totally blocked and pressure on the optic nerve increases rapidly. The symptoms of Angle-Closure Glaucoma are:

- Blurred Vision • Severe Eye Pain and redness
- Headaches • Seeing of rainbow halos around lights
- Nausea and vomiting

Unless treated quickly, blindness can happen quite rapidly

3. **Secondary Glaucoma** - A condition that occurs when the drainage angle is damaged due to specific conditions such as:

- Injuries • Tumors • Certain drugs (such as unsupervised and prolonged use of steroids)
- Inflammation • Abnormal blood vessels

4. **Congenital Glaucoma** - A rare occurrence among babies wherein the drainage angle is abnormal from birth. Parents may notice their baby's eye:

- Enlarging (it is more elastic than an adults eye)
- Becoming cloudy
- Watering and closing in the presence of light.

Detection:

Regular eye examinations are the best way to detect and prevent optic nerve damage from glaucoma. An ophthalmologist is the medical doctor trained to perform the various and painless examinations to detect irregularities in your eyesight.

Treatment of Glaucoma:

Fortunately, depending on the condition of the glaucoma, patients do not always have to go through eye surgery for treatment.

Eye drops and pills are also used to treat some conditions of the disease. Painless laser procedures for glaucoma are also widely available throughout the country. Surgery is reserved for those cases that do not respond to medication and/or laser. In all cases however, early detection is the key to successful treatment.

Entrust your eyesight to a qualified ophthalmologist. For information about the Philippine Academy of Ophthalmology accredited members or other eye diseases and conditions contact:



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OPINION

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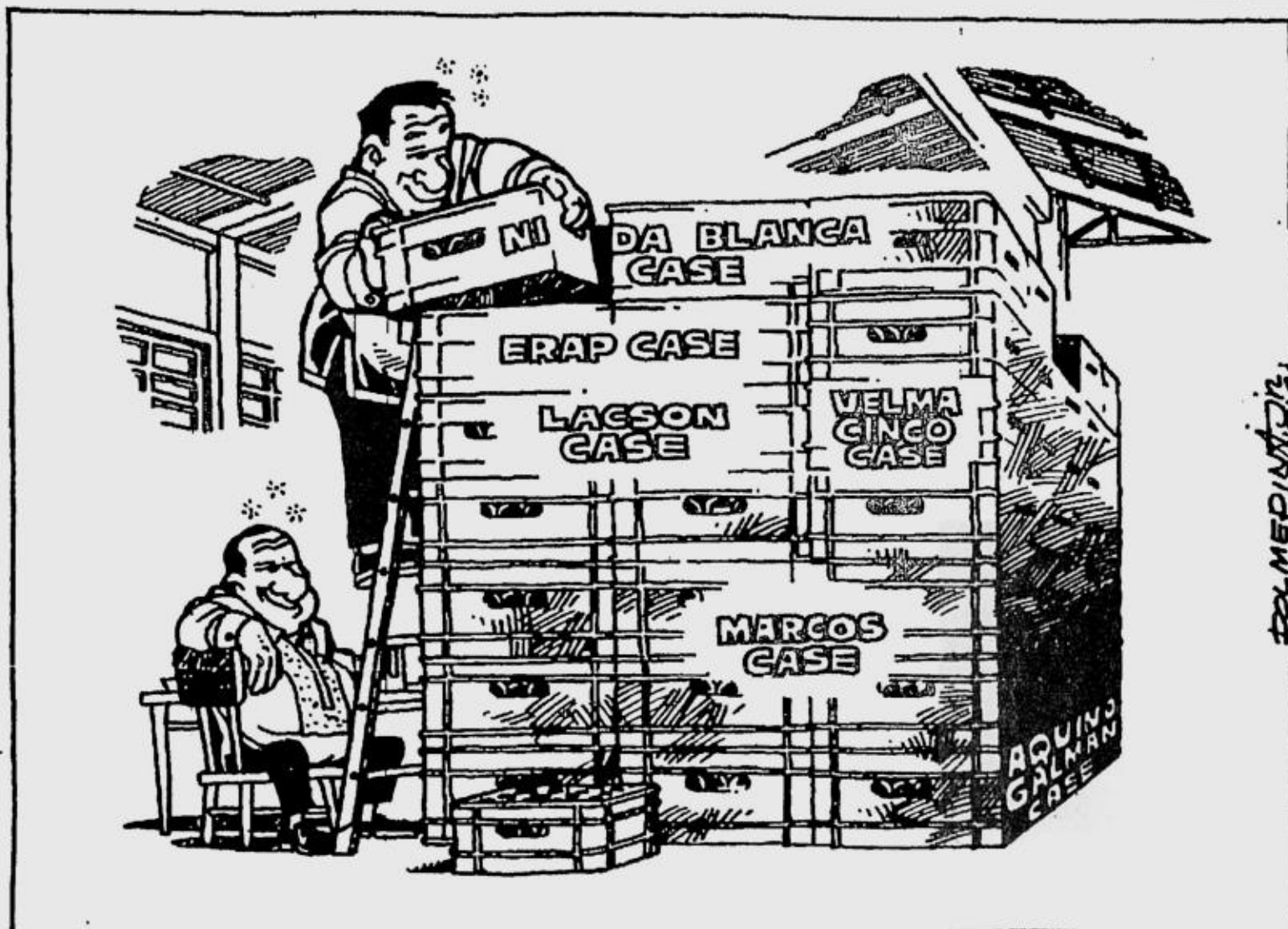
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State of shock

THEY may have put on a brave face, but police officials are in a state of shock over "self-confessed killer" Philip Medel's dramatic retraction last Friday. Their confusion mirrors the sense of dismay that the public—already outraged by the brutal killing of popular actress Nida Blanca—feels over the turn of events.

Blanca's killer—or killers—have thus claimed one more casualty: police credibility. And the police have only themselves to blame.

The police officials handling the case erred spectacularly, when it presented Medel before the press last Monday and allowed him to air his sensational charge that Rod Lauren Strunk, the actress' husband, had hired him to do it.

During the briefing and right after it, the police made the usual noises about corroborative evidence—that they were either in possession of it or were in the process of gathering it. But at bottom, the Philippine National Police's case rested on Medel's confession, and on his confession alone.

Thus, when Medel recanted his statements during a televised preliminary investigation, the fallout did not only affect the PNP's handling of the Nida Blanca case. It cast the PNP itself under a cloud.

Either Medel is telling the truth about being tortured, to confess to the crime, or he has made it up. If he was indeed tortured, then the PNP is guilty of a crime itself. If his allegation of torture is fiction, then the PNP is guilty of extreme (perhaps even criminal) gullibility. Either way, the PNP—in particular, the composite teams comprising Task Force Marsha, under Criminal Investigation and Detection Group chief Nestorio Gualberto—acted in a manner that weakens, rather than strengthens, public confidence in the police.

This fiasco couldn't have come at a worse time. Crime—or peace and order, in the language made familiar by bureaucrats—has become, all over again, the No. 1 public issue. Task Force Marsha's inept handling of the most sensational crime of the year thus deepens public suspicion that the crime situation is out of control—not so much because criminal gangs are more efficient, but because police officials are more concerned about appearing to solve a crime than actually solving it.

State of mind

THE WAY the police described the "hired killer" should already have been a giveaway. What, after all, is the difference between a confessed killer and a "self-confessed" one? In the light of Friday's developments, we now know the answer. A "self-confessed" killer is someone who has been forced to confess. Judging by the PNP's insistent use, the phrase will now be read as an attempt to force the issue, to prove something simply by labeling it.

The press briefing last Monday should also be understood in this sorry light. The profusion of government officials in attendance—Justice Secretary Hernando Perez, Interior Secretary Jose Lina, PNP chief Director General Leandro Mendoza and Gualberto, among others—was clearly meant to help prove the case to a waiting public. Surely the top brass won't appear at the presentation of a suspect unless they are themselves convinced of the suspect's guilt?

As it turns out, they had all been relying on the word of subordinates. All of them, however, have experience enough to have known better. At the very least, they should have known that official investigators had not yet completed their homework.

They should have known that, in the two days Medel was in police custody, investigators had not been able to use his statements to entrap the alleged mastermind, or at the very least to test his assertion that he knew the husband. They should have known that, prior to the news conference where Medel was presented, the "self-confessed" gunman had not yet been subjected to any psychiatric evaluation or even a basic lie detector test, to probe his state of mind. (In point of fact, he still had not been tested by Friday's preliminary investigation.) They should have known better, but sadly they acted not with discretion but with a politician's instinct.

That, as anyone can attest, says something about their state of mind.

Vanished values

SEPARATE
OPINION

Isagani
A. Cruz



Party with the Democrata Party and then the Popular Front snapping at its heels. There were no multimillion-peso scandals then. The leaders at the time were respectable and dignified, with not one of them a cheap entertainer or basketball star. Vote-buying and flying voters were not yet major worries and elections were relatively free, orderly and honest.

The contrast with the present situation is depressingly stark. The old virtues have given way to the new "in" things. The modern view exalts cynicism and practicability over the vanished qualities that made our country a better place to live in more than half a century ago.

Today many of the young address their elders as if they were contemporary cousins. The barrier of age is gone; if at all, it has become a cause for derision and dismissal. Children, mostly from the so-called "better" families, no longer say "sir" or "ma'am" as we did when we were their age. Now they wear outlandish clothes, smoke cigarettes, shoot shabu, and dye their hair to look weird. Where the students of my time were interested in intercollegiate debates and oratorical contests, their modern counterparts would rather watch Ricky Martin and Michael Jordan.

Prayer at angelus is a forgotten tradition. Women no longer enjoy their once-elevated status, probably mostly because of their own conduct. Crime has become rampant, now the rule rather than the exception. And the honest policeman? He is the exception rather than the rule.

Television has become a necessary presence but not always a wholesome influence. The shows are mostly vulgar and some anchorwomen are wretchedly obnoxious. Ditto with radio, which could be a force for good with less know-it-all announcers and more responsible practitioners.

AS a quiet observer of the passing generations, I would say that one reason for the deterioration of our society is the loss of the old values.

I saw those values shine during the remembered days of the '20s and the '30s when I was a growing boy. It was a sedate and genteel time when manners were more discreet, sights and sounds were less flamboyant, and excitement did not call for gore and blatant sex.

During those years, the old were accorded proper respect, with the youngsters addressing them with the traditional "po" and kissing their hands at eventide. Women were treated politely as was their due. Private property was generally safe from larceny or vandalism, and peace and order was rarely disturbed. Children did not roam the streets at night but were back at home from play before sunset.

In high school before the war, our only problem was the gate-crashers during our occasional barn dances and the usual prom. Nobody took drugs; few even smoked. Dyed hair was unknown. Everyone wore decent attire—no hip-hop, hot pants or bra-less blouses. The girls did not use lipstick and the boys did not carry guns.

The adults were also generally well behaved. There were the usual vices of gambling and drunkenness but not on the present scale, and drugs were not even perceived as a distant problem. Mahjongg had not yet become an addiction of the idle housewives and the kept paramours. Religion was still a compulsive activity of the *hermanas* although not yet the charismatic hand-waving and body-swaying kind. The males had yet to be seduced by the flash-in-the-pan *cursillo*.

Entertainment came from the movies and the radio, television being still a long way off. The local motion pictures were generally tame, with Rosa del Rosario projecting the image of the innocent barrio lass. There were no bold stars and Angelita "Rhumba" Rey titillated the whole nation with only a kissing scene. Gangster films were a novelty, and mayhem was no match for the cloying musicals of Elsa Oria. Hit songs at the time were the oldies like "Nasaan Ka, Irog" and "Madaling Araw" plus the new songs of Octavio Silos.

Politics was dominated by the Nacionalista

A king who saves, not a king who enslaves

WHEN I was a young priest, I once went through a yellow light, and a policeman flagged me down. I tried to explain, but he was tough and arrogant and just kept on berating me. He demanded to see my driver's license. He looked at it, and I noticed a sudden change in the tone of his voice. More respectful and more mellow now, he asked: "Ah, Christ the King Seminary. Christ the King? *Pari ka ba* (Are you a priest)?"

"Yes, Sir," I answered.

"*Ay pari pala; akala ko tao!* Sorry, Father (Oh, you are a priest, I thought you were a person! Sorry, Father!)"

This is just one little incident, one of the many times when literally I experienced being saved by Christ the King. There are many more and bigger incidents, but my point is that unlike worldly rulers and kings, Christ is a king who saves, not a king who enslaves, a king who loves, not a king who grabs.

The Gospel today (Lk. 23, 35-43) speaks of a king who is compassionate. He said to the repentant thief, "Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise."

We have a king who has a heart. We have a king who understands. *Maunawain at malalapitan* (understanding and approachable). Intelligence, power and know-how are fine, but more than these, it is the heart of a leader which we seek to find.

Do you have a heart? Do you belittle the heart? If so, you need to look again at Christ the King, a king who has a heart, a king who gives his heart.

It is interesting to note the description of the people, the crowd, in today's Gospel who "stood by and watched," "sneered" and "jeered." Do we not all experience this at one time or another? In contrast, Christ the King knows, understands

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry
M. Orbos, SVD



and gives hope. How wonderful to know that our king really knows and understands! The bottom line is that God's love is unconditional. He loves you and me more than we know, more than we realize, more than we allow Him to. That's right, *mahal ka ng Diyos, maging sino ka man, kahit ikaw ay bad boy, maging puso mo'y sinungaling paminsan-minsan, habang may buhay ngayon at kailan man* (God loves you, whoever you are, even if you are bad, even if your heart lies sometimes, while there is life and for always). To complete that, let the Lord tell you: "*Ikaw naman, 'di na natuto. Ikaw pa, e, lab kita!*" Amen!

The good thief and the bad thief had different attitudes as they hung on the cross beside Jesus. The good thief humbled himself and handed his life to the Lord, while the bad thief hung tough, and hung on to his pride.

So, when will you really hand yourself to the Lord? How long will you hang tough before God? If today you hear his voice, harden not your heart.

Last week, a woman walked into my office and told me outright, "Father Orbos, stop telling people, 'God bless you. Mama Mary loves you.'" There was so much anger in her face. As I listened to her, I knew that here was a woman who was so hurt and who was filled with resentment (*tampo*). And for a reason. She was always devoted to

The movies today are a disgrace, but the present generation patronizes them avidly and tastelessly. Violence and sex are the usual fare, and the more of it the better for the current audience. The increase in the crime rate has been correctly traced to the slew of unwholesome films that have glutted the market and fomented the rash of robberies, kidnapping and rapes. The entertainment industry itself has refused to display its civic spirit by curbing its greed for profit at the expense of the public morality.

What is worse is that the viewing public, consisting mostly of the *bakya* crowd, has cultivated personality cults of their tinsel idols whom they have elevated to public office. Most of them are disgracefully incompetent; no less than their foremost leader has been booted out of the highest office in the land not only for shallowness but also for corruption. Some of his imitators are now sitting in the Senate, and a number of them have further cheapened their offices by appearing in television commercials.

There was a time when Manila was known as the cleanest city in Asia, but that is now a mocking memory. The prided neatness of the Filipino has been outrageously belied by the piles and piles of uncollected garbage that have uglified the metropolis and mortified our country as among the dirtiest in the world. We refuse to pollute the air by incinerating our rubbish while it rots and rots and rots to poison the land and the waters and imperil the health of our people.

The only thing that has not changed is the wantonness of the filthy rich, who continue to flaunt their wealth before the poor like a red rag to the wounded bull. The haughty have yet to learn, before it is too late, the vengeful anger of the brooding past.

Change is a way of life but it must be change for the better. Where we change the old virtues and replace them with new vices, we do ourselves a disservice. Progress is desirable but only when it will improve our lives and strengthen the traditional values of our people that have enabled us to weather the vicissitudes of history. Living in the present does not mean we should forfeit those past values that made the future so inviting.

Mama Mary since her youth. She lost a very good son, a fresh PMA graduate who was killed in Mindanao at the age of 21. Why did "that woman" let her down?

She let it all out. I just listened. Finally, all I said to her was that Mama Mary knows her pain because she also lost a son who was killed before her very eyes. I just asked her to embrace Mama Mary.

She did, and she cried, just cried and cried. There were no words uttered. It was a heart that understood another heart. No words were necessary. She did not hang tough. She just handed over her heart.

Today, look into your heart. In the deepest chambers of your heart, deeper than the Afghanistan caves and deeper than the Nida Blanca slay plot, are there still hurts, hatred, resentment, guilt, sins and plots that you have not yet handed to your King and God?

More than ever, we need to consecrate the whole world to Christ the King of the Universe. Powers come and go. Even the superpowers are not invincible. The kingdom of God is still the best plan, the best prospect there is. Let us all work for the spread of God's kingdom all over the world and all over creation. Begin in your own heart right now.

Next Sunday is already the First Sunday of Advent. Let us all prepare our hearts for the birthday of our Lord. Let us remove all the "kings" that enslave us: money, power, vices, greed, lust, violence, hatred, etc. These are your weakest link. To them you say GOODBYE! Let us enthrone the King who saves and who serves us.

A moment with the Lord:
Lord, my King who saves me, remove the "kings" that enslave me. Amen.

Human clone still a no-show

NEW YORK—It's biology's Mt. Everest, and some say it could be climbed within a year.

Wired magazine in February predicted that scientists would produce the first human clone by early 2002 and fertility expert Severino Antinori in October said he would clone a human within months, while renegade embryologist Richard Seed says all he needs is 120 days and \$300,000 to accomplish the feat.

So far, however, no clone has materialized. And experts say that despite apparent advances in animal cloning, a human clone is not likely any time soon—unless scientists are prepared to take huge ethical, political and scientific risks. "We're a long way from cloning," said Jamie Grifo, director of the division of reproductive endocrinology at New York University. "There are too many things that could go wrong."

Until the Sept. 11 attacks, cloning—whether to reproduce a human being or to produce human tissue that could be used to help treat disease—was one of the nation's top stories, as the country grappled with the moral dilemmas inherent in the issue. President George W. Bush in August warned of the dangers of "growing human beings for spare body parts." Now, as scientists struggle to come up with vaccines that might protect against old-fashioned diseases such as anthrax and smallpox, these futuristic scenarios appear, to many, remote.

Not, though, to cloning zealots, who claim success is close at hand. Italian fertility specialist Antinori, who hit the headlines in 1994 when he helped a 62-year-old woman bear a child, says he can and will use cloning to help infertile couples have children.

Brigitte Boisselier, former deputy director of research at the Air Liquide Group, a French producer of industrial and medical gases, now heads a team of six scientists at a cloning company called Clonaid, which is registered under a different, undisclosed name in Wilmington, Delaware. Boisselier, who is associated with a fringe religious organization that believes scientists from another planet created mankind, says her team is

FEATURE

Toni Clarke

actively "preparing embryos" and expects to produce a human clone soon. "Our next announcement will be when the baby is born," she said.

She won't reveal where her laboratory is, or how far along she is with her cloning experiments, for fear of attack. "If people are ready to kill an abortion doctor, what do you think they would do to a cloning scientist?" she asked.

Human cloning is banned in most of Europe and a bill seeking to ban it in the United States is working its way through Congress.

Both Boisselier and Antinori say they hope to set up laboratories in the United Kingdom, after a high court there ruled earlier this month that human cloning experiments could not be legally banned.

That door may soon be closed to them though, as the British Parliament is poised to pass a bill to outlaw the cloning of babies with the intention of bringing them to term. The bill could become law within two weeks.

Boisselier and Antinori have said that if necessary they will conduct experiments on boats in international waters. Both have been vilified by much of the medical community, but some mainstream scientists support their view that we have the technology—if not necessarily the desire—to create human clones.

"I think it's technically possible," said Randy Jirtle, professor of radiation oncology at Duke University. "It could even be easier than cloning animals."

Jirtle conducted studies showing that one of the prime defects of cloned animals—excessive growth—would not be an issue, for genetic rea-

sons, in humans. Defects in cloned animals—cattle, mice and sheep—have provided opponents of human cloning with ammunition in their fight to have cloning banned.

According to the National Academy of Sciences, between 0.5 percent and 15 percent of cloned animals are successfully brought to term. But a study released on Thursday in the journal Science claimed greater success. The study concludes that 24 of 30 cloned cows were alive and apparently normal after one to four years. To achieve this number the scientists created 110 pregnancies—a success rate of 22 percent.

"All available scientific and medical data is suggesting these animals are perfectly normal," said Robert Lanza, medical director of Advanced Cell Technology, the Massachusetts-based cloning company that sponsored the study.

It's these kind of statistics that hearten advocates of human cloning.

But Rudolf Jaenisch, a biologist at the Whitehead Institute for Medical Research in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and one of the nation's most outspoken opponents of human cloning, is skeptical of statistics showing animal cloning is safe. "To say they are normal is not correct. They are normal by the criteria they used. These criteria are very superficial," he said.

Whether or not cloned animals are normal, some scientists argue that it is beneficial to study them and to proceed with cloning research on humans in order to advance medical research. "We can do the science, do the cloning, without making a baby," New York University's Grifo said.

And then, they say, there's the simple desire of humans to extend the boundaries of knowledge, especially about what it means to be human. "Having opened Pandora's Box with Dolly the sheep, it would be abnormal for humans not to want to look inside it," Jirtle said.

For Jaenisch, it's just this kind of unbridled curiosity that could lead to the production of dozens of deformed babies. "There has been no progress whatsoever in understanding the scientific principle behind cloning," he said. *Reuters*

'Bakya' is in

IT is a wonder to many observers how the hoi polloi could stand by a man accused of plunder and philandering. We saw after the furor of "Edsa III" and see even to this day protesters march from the Sandiganbayan to the Supreme Court for a man who, in their opinion, has been deprived of justice. This has given birth to a common notion that somehow, the *masa* have a warped sense of reality.

Those of us who think we know better, believe that this is what is wrong with our world. The poor, who make up the bulk of our population, cannot see the world as it is.

Can this be true?

In consultations with different depressed communities, this stinging observation was countered by boisterous, feisty and emotional yet still unheard members of the E class. According to them, their choices are personal, and so are their political beliefs. It is deeply rooted in the way their lives are run, from minute to minute, day to day. It is real. And what is wrong with our world is that the rich do not see the world as it is.

The poor have a point there. Many of the rich do live in a different reality. As one of the culturati has noted, we live a First World lifestyle in a Third World country. Mass media and the business world have encouraged this illusion by inundating us with advertisements that typify a fast-paced world of fast foods, gadgets and gizmos.

Gilda Cordero Fernando, in her book "Pinoy Pop Culture," describes our lifestyle succinctly: "Open the Filipino's head and you will find: a quarter pounder hamburger, a beauty contest, a Hallmark card, an apple pie, a ticket to Disneyland, a surgically lifted nose and an English-speaking *yaya*." Don't forget the cell phone!

This does not mean that the fondness for the good things in life is all bad. Sometimes, these are what help us get through this murky world. However, we should also not forget the reality that two out of every five Filipinos are poor, according to the NCSB, and most of us feel this crunch as self-rated poverty increased from 50 percent in March to 66 percent in July this year in a survey done by the Social Weather Stations. The NCSB also indicated that poverty incidence rose from 31.8 percent in 1997 to 34.2 percent in 2000. And future poverty statistics won't be any better as a global recession is poised to set in after the holidays.

Poverty is here, as it has been for generations, and though we certainly don't want it to stay, it will remain, at least for another generation. And this is a fact that the poor know only too well, and that we have neglected for too long.

In other words, the poor's perception of reality is more attuned with Philippine reality. But how does this relate to their political beliefs and choices? According to some residents of Barangay Commonwealth, the biggest depressed barangay in Quezon City, Erap is their man, because as his name says, he is "*pare*"—a friend. He has gone down to their level, and has, in their view, lived a life in sync with theirs. Their choice betrays a deep sense of *pakikisama* for a man who stood by them. As one beer commercial put it, "*Walang iwanan*."

Some women of Kasiglahan Village I share this affection for Erap. They find it hard to explain, but for them, he has a certain charm that strikes a chord in their hearts. The words they have for him are "*mabait*" and "*makamasa*."

Women from Payatas also say Erap is approachable, an ever-present figure in their lives, a man they can run to without fear of being snubbed. Erap's charisma has warmed their hearts. They love him even if he was not faithful to his wife, for in their eyes, he is faithful to them. He has snubbed the rich and has lavished the poor with much attention. Erap, like it or not, has touched them in a personal way, and they respond to him, as they do in all things in life, personally.

This partiality is also evident in the shows they watch (poor-girl-rich-boy *telenovelas*), the songs they listen to (April Boy and the jukebox princesses), and the fads that come and go (remember Lumen?).

However, according to them, with President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in power, the rich are at it again. But no matter, for they are still hanging on to the possibility that there could be ways this government can share in their lives. They see a glimmer of hope in the Kalahi convergence program, for it aims to touch base with the neediest of our citizens. Feedback from the communities we regularly consult with also shows appreciation for some government officials, such as Social Welfare Secretary Dinky Soliman and Quezon City Mayor Sonny Belmonte.

But still, this does not change the fact that, according to them, nothing has changed so far. They feel that much is still lacking when it comes to access to basic services and commodities. There is certainly a need for more pro-poor initiatives that are not mere band aid. The E class—the *bakya* crowd, so to speak—deserves more than that. Suggestions from their ranks range from regular dialogues with local officials, more visits from government officials so the latter can see and feel their problems, more livelihood opportunities and, of course, access to lower-priced basic commodities.

Help should also not just come from the government, but from all sectors of society as well. There is a need for collective effort to target the neediest and to alleviate their plight. The poor perceive the rich to be apathetic to their existence, and to be getting richer while the poor become poorer.

We hope that this will soon change. The rich should see that the poor are power. If they were to see the world as one big market where everybody could earn, the rich would see that the market is not gay or aging or rich. The market is *bakya*.

A prayer for Maria Teresa

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David



"GENDER violence, especially violence against women and children is a sin against God and Creation; and a violation of human dignity and rights." This is the declaration that the Coordinating Team of the Women's Desk of the Association of Major Religious Superiors of the Philippines (AMRSP) hope church people will proclaim as the "Good News" in Sunday Masses today, the "Universal Day of Elimination of All Forms of Violence against Women."

Today actually marks the kick-off of an international "16-Day Campaign against Gender Violence" that comes to an end on Dec. 10, International Human Rights Day.

But what makes the declaration significant, if indeed it is picked up by priests and preachers around the country, is that this would be one of those rare times that the Catholic Church, as an institution, would publicly declare violence against women a "sin" and a violation of human rights.

The AMRSP is the overall coordinating body of the heads of all Catholic congregations of men and women in the country. But though it has authority only over religious men and women, the Women's Desk coordinators say many bishops and diocesan priests have likewise expressed support for this campaign.

PERHAPS this is a sign that church leaders are realizing that many of the injustices and violence done to women is in part a consequence of the Church's teachings that women are subordinate to men, subject to male authority and control.

In a statement, Violeta Clet-Mendoza and Erlinda Cuajunco Perlado, the AMRSP-Women's Desk coordinators, point out that "Women had been victims of violence since time immemorial: rape, use of women as concubines, nameless domestic helpers, prostituted and commercialized, sold to the highest bidder. The greatest violence done to woman is to be identified primarily to her sexual role and having no other treasure to hold than her body, virginity and vagina. She is the very image of domestic work and sexual pleasure. Violence will not stop until women are not looked on as objects of pleasure, but as 'fully human persons capable of fully embodying the sacred'."

In other words, when women are finally viewed,

especially by the patriarchs of the Church, as equals of men, bearing an equal share of the legacy of salvation and leadership given to all children of God.

Everyone wishing to take part in the campaign against gender-based violence is invited to take part in the launching ceremonies this afternoon at 4:30 at the Edsa Shrine. A brief program will follow the Mass. A novena will then follow the launching, from Nov. 25 to Dec. 9, from 4:30-5 p.m. at the Edsa Shrine grounds.

Special intentions will be said for the following: Victims of domestic violence—battered wives, incest survivors and those sexually abused or harassed; survivors of rape; victims of female infanticide, selective abortions and female genital mutilation; women victims of labor injustice and women migrant workers; people living with HIV and AIDS; victims of media violence; maltreated and sexually abused children; women victimized by sex trafficking and prostitution and victims of militarism; and male victims of violence particularly violence against homosexuals (gays and lesbians).

THE MASS this afternoon might well be a requiem Mass, too, for Maria Teresa Carlson, whose death the other day has focused the spotlight on survivors of domestic violence.

Though spousal and partner abuse is no longer the "dirty secret" it was as late as a decade ago, the majority of women trapped in abusive relationships still choose to suffer in silence. There is still a stigma attached to having been a "battered wife," and the higher one's status in life, the more shame is attached to one's person.

Indeed, domestic violence is the only crime in which the victim is both condemned for going public and threatening the marriage, and for staying in for so long and enduring the abuse in an ef-

fort to preserve the relationship.

This was what many people, in fact, said of Maria Teresa when she first went public with her story. First, how she could be so shameless as to tell the media the gory details of the abuse she suffered at the hands of her powerful husband. And then, when she chose to return to him, how she could be so "dumb" as to come back for more punishment.

HER story, too, is a graphic illustration to just how isolated and helpless women in her position can be. True, so much progress has been made in the struggle against domestic violence. Police have been trained to respond much more quickly and with more sensitivity to reports of domestic violence. Hospital personnel have undergone training on how to spot possible victims of domestic violence, even if the women and children themselves deny the abuse. Prosecutors and judges have gone through sessions on the psychological and socio-economic implications of the crime.

But the stark reality is that, so long as there is still no law declaring domestic violence a unique crime, and so long as society looks on the husband as the "natural" authority in the household, women like Maria Teresa will continue to be battered and punished for no other crime than being a woman.

The latest news is that Maria Teresa's husband has said that she could not have leaped to her death, arguing that she probably merely "slipped" from a rooftop ledge. Even in death, Maria Teresa continues to be denied the autonomy and freedom she sought vainly in life.

In her memory, then, we offer this prayer, to be said during the Novena against Gender Violence:

God of Life, you who have made all things and creation

We pray today for a world of peace and non-violence

We remember especially women victims of violence

And pray that their spirit may live in us, to encourage us

To work for peace and safety for our women and children,

That there will be no more women to suffer unjustly.

Misuari's failure

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David



THE RECENT attack on government installations by armed guerrillas identified with Nur Misuari in Jolo closes another chapter in the episodic effort to find a lasting solution to the so-called Mindanao problem. It marks the formal breakdown of the peace accord signed with so much hope by the Philippine government and the Moro National Liberation Front in September 1996.

The government, of course, insists that the peace agreement with the MNLF endures, and that only Misuari and his minority band of "renegades" and "bribed outsiders" have declared a return to the path of war. Proof of this, says the government, is the support being given by the administration to the candidacy of Parouk Hussin for the governorship of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM). Hussin is one of the leaders of the MNLF's Council of 15 that recently stripped Misuari of the chairmanship.

In an interview on the TV program "Off the Record" in early November, Misuari complained against government meddling in the affairs of the MNLF. He denounced in particular the active participation of Presidential Assistant Bert Gonzalez in the conspiracy to ease him out of the MNLF leadership and subsequently out of the ARMM as well. He said the President's men were engaged in political maneuvers that would install in power pliant Muslim leaders who would support President Macapagal in the 2004 elections.

Misuari had been very vocal in his objections to the holding of the referendum in August which asked voters in provinces and cities in Mindanao with large Muslim populations to decide if they wished to be part of an expanded autonomous region. He argued that the concept of autonomy had not been given sufficient time to demonstrate its feasibility. The results of the referendum confirmed his worst expectations. The ARMM will henceforth include only the five provinces of Sulu, Basilan, Tawi-Tawi, Lanao del Sur and Maguindanao, and the lone city of Marawi. It is in these places that the election for the governorship of the ARMM will be held.

Those who have followed the struggle for an independent Bangsamoro state from the late 1960s onwards will understand the depth of the frustration and the sense of betrayal that Moros feel over this turn of events. They will recall the principal provisions of the 1976 Tripoli Agreement, which, in exchange for the goal of a separate state, would establish a region of autonomy consisting of 13 provinces in Mindanao and all the cities within these provinces. These provinces were Basilan, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi, Zamboanga del Sur, Zamboanga del Norte, North Cotabato, Maguindanao, Sultan Kudarat, Lanao del Norte, Lanao del Sur, South Cotabato and Palawan.

The agreement was signed during martial law. Realizing the far-reaching implications of the Tripoli Accord, Marcos later tried to blunt its force by making its implementation subject to the processes of the Philippine Constitution. With the solid backing of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC), the MNLF objected to various attempts to water down the substance of Moro autonomy. Subsequent changes in government, however, starting with the overthrow of Marcos in 1986, marginalized the Tripoli Accord. The 1987 Constitution did provide for the creation of autonomous regions through the enactment of an organic act for each autonomous region, but neither the Constitution nor the Organic Act for Muslim Mindanao ever came close to the categorical language of the original Tripoli agreement.

The principle that ultimately prevailed is that inclusion in an autonomous region must be based

on the explicit consent of voters freely exercising their right of choice in a referendum. In accepting the peace accord brokered by the OIC in 1996, Misuari had hoped that given the chance to lead an experimental autonomous government, he would be able to persuade Muslims and Christians alike about the advantages and benefits of autonomy. He had five years in which to do that, and he has run out of time.

Needless to say, Misuari was a miserable failure. He was thoroughly unprepared for the job. Many say he is also corrupt. Yet, to be fair, it is difficult to see how a better and more capable leader, working in the most ideal circumstances and with unlimited funds, could have succeeded. The job assigned to Misuari was not just to build roads, bridges and schools. It was also to form the institutions of a modern autonomous nation. No single leader can do that overnight, especially not when he must work with a people whose growth has been arrested by war, plunder, neglect and co-optation over long periods of colonial domination.

I think we Filipinos have been far more patient with our own leaders. We have been in the business of nation building for more than a hundred years now. If, like autonomy, the right to independence were to be made contingent upon the performance of leaders, I think the situation of our nation today would not make it easy for us to justify remaining an independent state.

In short, Misuari agreed to take a test no one could have passed. But this is not a brief for Misuari. The man had huge personal shortcomings that prevented him from properly discharging the duties of an effective leader. But knowing this should not blind us to the complex circumstances in which local leaders like Misuari attempt to achieve the gigantic task of creating an autonomous Moro state. Misuari's failure is also our failure.

Comments are welcome at rdavid@pacific.net.ph

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO...

Bookstore owner's kidnapping

JOSE Agaton Sibal, owner of Alemar's Bookstore, was rescued by police agents on Sept. 13, 1998, after being held for four days by a kidnapping syndicate in Las Piñas City.

The kidnappers seized Sibal in New Manila, Quezon City and demanded a P30-million ransom for his release. Sibal later said the kidnappers took from him several pieces of jewelry worth P314,000 and a wallet containing around P4,000.

Arrested after the raid on their safe house in Las Piñas were Aristotle Arreola, his wife Fema and his nephew Angelo. Brothers Michael and Franklin Sejalbo, Aristotle's cousins, and Roger Ramos were arrested in Marikina. Reynaldo Sarabia was arrested in October in a follow-up operation in Quezon City.

On Nov. 9, they were all charged with kidnapping for ransom and robbery before the Quezon City Regional Trial Court. The cases were raffled off to Judge Diosdado Peralta of Branch 95.

The Arreolas, the Sejalbos and Ramos were arraigned and pleaded not guilty on Nov. 27. Sarabia also pleaded not guilty during his arraignment on Dec. 11.

On Jan. 11, 1999, the prosecution started presenting its evidence. On Jan. 18, the prosecutors filed a motion to discharge the Arreolas as accused. Thus, simultaneous with the presentation of evidence, the motion was heard, with Aristotle testifying as state witness.

On May 20, the prosecution rested its case. For this reason, the court also considered the prosecution's motion to discharge submitted for resolution. In the same hearing, the court also granted the manifestation of Fema and Angelo's counsel to file a demurrer to evidence. A demurrer, if granted by the court, would lead to the dismissal of the case on grounds of insufficiency of evidence.

In July, the court granted the prosecution's motion to discharge but only as far as Aristotle was concerned and denied those of Fema and Angelo. The court, nonetheless, granted Fema and Angelo's demurrer and ordered their release.

The four other accused then asked the court to reconsider its decision as to Aristotle's discharge but their motion was denied. They appealed to the Court of Appeals which also denied their motion on March 20, 2000.

Case status: On March 30, 2001, the court found the remaining accused guilty of kidnapping for ransom and sentenced them to death, except for Ramos who was found guilty as an accomplice. He was meted out a life sentence.

As regards the robbery case, the three death convicts were also found guilty and ordered to return the stolen jewelry or its equivalent amount. Ramos was acquitted.

Since the penalty was death, the case was transmitted to the Supreme Court for automatic review last June 19. Meanwhile, 10 other suspects—Rolly Sarabia, Joel Guillermo, Otoy Sejalbo and seven whose names are unknown—remain at large. *Armin P. Adina, PDI Research Department*

TALK OF THE TOWN

JOHN NERY, Editor

Join the discussion. E-mail us at talk@inquirer.com.ph

SCALING THE NATIONAL SOCIO-ECONOMIC SUMMIT 2.

What is the most important issue?

LET us parley at the summit,' Churchill once said, and governance since has never been the same. What makes the illusion of summitry attractive is the appeal to equality: by definition, everyone invited to the table is on equal terms with everyone else. The Ramos administration (1992-1998) mastered the art; the present administration, its ideological

successor, is attempting to follow in its steps.

Tomorrow's summit, however, is bigger than any ever attempted by the Ramos administration: it embraces more sectors, it tackles more topics, and it raises more expectations. What is the single most important issue facing the summit? Herewith, in our second and last installment, two contrasting answers.

The President herself

BY MA. LINDA OLAGUER MONTAYRE
Secretary-General, People's Consultative Assembly

IS THE National Socio-Economic Summit the right answer to the right question? This I believe is the most basic question President Macapagal-Arroyo and her government must satisfactorily answer.

But what is the right question in the first place? Let us presume the government wants to address the serious economic crisis our country faces at present. But can we solve the problem through an economic summit? Indeed we all face an economic disaster of unprecedented gravity. Other countries too are faced with economic recession and slow-downs. But we have been faced with economic crises before. What makes our present crisis an ICU case?

To grasp the problem it is urgent that we situate ourselves and look back to where we have come from. The last time we enjoyed economic progress, prosperity and peace was during the term of President Fidel V. Ramos. Under Joseph Estrada the Asian economic crisis continued but this was compounded by mega-corruption at the highest levels of our government. He was deposed because of corruption, immorality and incompetence but unfortunately for us Filipinos, the sins of his administration have been carried on to the present administration. Meager resources are diverted to programs where fat commissions by top government officials can be earned. At the same time, government priorities involve image-building and fundraising for 2004. Meanwhile we have a runaway crime situation where kidnappings remain unsolved and because of which investors are leaving our country. Top this with a full-scale war in Mindanao that will eat up most of our national budget and further

scare both local and foreign businessmen from investing capital to pump-prime our economy. Finally, we have a world situation of economic recession precipitated by international terrorism. Is the problem economic?

We are sitting on top of a social volcano. We have 12 to 15 million hungry Filipinos every day and their number is increasing daily. Last May 1, this volcano almost erupted with the *Erap masa* igniting this time bomb. This bomb can be ignited anytime and blow us to kingdom come anytime, too, but our national leadership does not want to see this bomb. The problem is not just economic. To meet this part of the problem we need urgent reforms: to eliminate corruption, to end lawlessness, to stop the war. To initiate reforms and resolve our problems frontally our leadership must make a full about face. But it cannot, because it is obsessed with 2004.

The main problem therefore of our country today is in our leadership. In the standpoint and direction of this leadership, the values and priorities of this leadership. The economy, no matter how serious the situation may be, can be handled by a focused and capable leader with a single-minded direction to harness resources to respond to the needs of our people. But when the focus of our President is 2004, to do everything within her power now to ensure victory and continuity of her stay in Malacañang, no amount of economic summits will solve the crisis our country is facing today.

Ultimately, how can Gloria solve the problem when the problem is Gloria?

The need for a social growth agenda

BY OMIROYANDOYAN
Executive Director, Philippine Peasant Institute

THE SMALL stakeholders in the agriculture sector are guarded over government's latest initiative to touch ground with them. While the holding of a National Socio-Economic Summit is a welcome move, many of them suffer from "consultation fatigue" and are not too keen over engaging the government in another series of dialogues that in the end may not produce any substantial gains in addressing the agriculture sector's ills. They stress that the government must be guided by two principles to effectively address the sector's malaise and guarantee social growth in the long term—the first principle is that small farms are engines of growth; the second is that government must take a bigger and a more active role in agricultural development.

From an agricultural powerhouse in the 1960s and 1970s, Philippine agriculture has deteriorated to an agricultural laggard; it has been exhibiting poor agricultural performance in both relative and absolute terms. The sector's full-blown crisis has been brought about by stagnant (even declining) agricultural productivity, the steady rise in agricultural trade deficit, the affliction of trade monopolies, rising unemployment and depressed wages, low and misallocated public investments, inadequate and ineffective productivity enhancement support (in terms of research and development, credit and other financial services), weak agricultural governance, and the foreign debt burden.

The policy debate on the character and direction of Philippine agriculture—from plantation farming versus small-owner cultivated farming to a liberalized market economy

or a protectionist regime—has been formally settled by the Presidential Commission on Agricultural Modernization (Agricomm), when it declared in a policy statement that "the way we teach agriculture and formulate our priorities in research and development, the manner by which we produce commodities, and the institutions we create for agricultural modernization will be governed after the imperatives of small farms."

Studies have shown that the small-farm model is the surest route to broad-based economic development. Small farms are more productive and efficient than large farms. If poverty is our concern, for instance, the implementation of land reform to create a small farm economy is a step in the right direction.

Unfortunately, while small farms in the Philippines predominate, they are in a state of destitution and bankruptcy.

The 1991 Census of Agriculture shows that the total 4.6 million farms covering a total area of 10 million hectares were distributed as follows: 4.1 million farms or 90.5 percent comprised farms below 5 hectares; 320,000 farms or 7 percent have sizes of 5-9 hectares; 108,000 farms or 2.3 percent have sizes of 10-24 hectares; and only 3,000 farms or 0.06 percent have sizes of 25 hectares or more. Of the total 4.1 million farms below 5 hectares, the tillers of the smallest of the small-farm size category (i.e., farm size under one hectare) are the poorest among the small farmers.

The significant increase in the number of farms over the ten-year period was registered by farms of 1-2.99 hectares (1.5 million to 1.9 million farms in 1991) and by those under one hectare in size (775,791 in 1980 to one million farms in 1991). The trend seems to show a decline of the so-called middle owner-cultivators. The decrease in the number of farms size and area of farms prompted Dr. Joseph Lim, a professor at the UP School of Economics, to conclude that "[t]his trend of decreasing land sizes is an indication of an agricultural situation that is bound for more turbulent crises.

Already the biggest number of the rural population is made up of families of the landless rural poor followed by that of owner-cultivators and then tenants."

In the case of Philippine agriculture, the reduction and withdrawal of state subsidies, coupled with market vagaries, resulted in the destitution and bankruptcy of small farmers.

The scholars have noted that the low savings accumulation of the small farmers translated into low investment and low capital formation. With limited access to new methods of cultivation, small farmers are forced to employ simple, if not primitive, production techniques, resulting in low production and low income levels. The end result is a low standard of living or "appalling poverty."

Since lenders in the financial market tend to favor borrowers "who are less of a credit risk," the cash-strapped small farmers end up knocking on the doors of loan sharks (euphemistically called "informal lenders"). But their initial low standard of living makes them debt-ridden and, therefore, always at the mercy of their informal creditors.

In the final analysis, the real challenge is how to make the small farmers profitable and, therefore, bankable. For them to escape the "debt-poverty trap," the government must ensure that the small farmers are producing "10 times" more than their present production levels. This should be the primary consideration when the government talks about "leveling the playing field."

Bigger government

It is imperative that the Philippine government re-establishes a major role in the process of economic development. Growth and equity can be reached with the adept application of economic policies and strategies that are crafted without influence from both domestic rent-seekers and international self-serving economic agents. In developing Philippine agriculture, for instance, government can implement measures that are immensely needed by the small farmers and the agribusiness firms, as both sectors

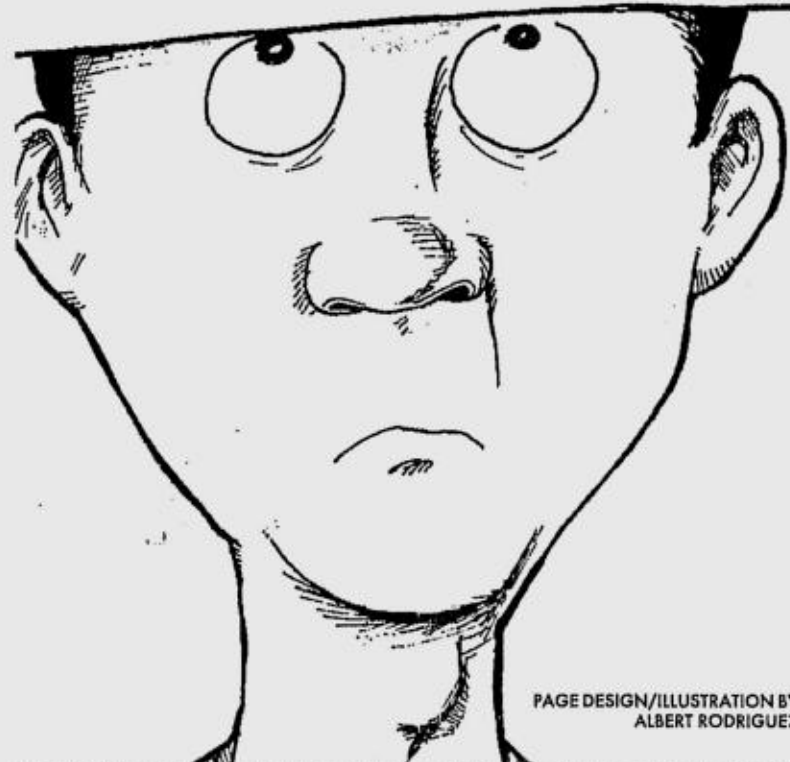
are currently suffering from the current crisis. By relinquishing to private hands its vital role in developing the agricultural sector, the government is placing the growth and progress of the agriculture sector as well as the development of small farms on tenuous ground.

Clearly, a big government or strong-state paradigm is needed to address intractable social and economic constraints as seen in the grossly unequal distribution of assets (money and land) and bankruptcy of small farmers, which have stunted the development of entrepreneurial capabilities. Furthermore, by forming a Social Growth Alliance, the state will then be compelled to enhance its own strength and autonomy while coordinating and supporting the best initiatives and resources from the nation's various economic players and stakeholders.

Holding a social summit will be an exercise in futility if the government fails to draw up measures that will address problems related to social growth. Small agricultural players have the necessary recommendations to revive the sector and address social growth concerns, but if the government will go on its "business-as-usual" mode after holding the summit, it will not only let these brilliant proposals go to waste, it will also prove to the small agricultural producers that no amount of consultation with the government will ever bear substantial results. This early, problems are already starting to arise as proposals with no direct bearing on the growth of the sector (like the amendment of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program) are being peddled by some quarters.

In the end, the government must acknowledge that what the small stakeholders need are a social growth agenda and a "big and strong" government that will ensure its realization.

The author heads the National Socio-Economic Summit's sub-sectoral committee for farmers' organizations and NGOs



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ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Talking points

THE MAIN issue facing the National Socio-Economic Summit, says Ms. Montayre, is the summit-convenor herself. In a word, Montayre's entire argument (reduced by about a third, for editing and space reasons) rests in this: The President is preoccupied by the prospect of running for election in 2004. Does the outspoken civil-society leader make her case?

The answer, from where I sit, is No. President Macapagal Arroyo is accused of many things, but there is only one charge that directly leads to the 2004 hypothesis. I use the word "lead," rather than "prove," because the assertion is not supported. "At the same time, government priorities involve image-build-

ing and fund-raising for 2004," Montayre writes. This may well be, but usually in these cases proof is required. (The passages that could not be accommodated accuse Macapagal of indulging in unrealistic expectations, counting the eggs from her US working visit before they are hatched.)

The "social volcano" Montayre

fears may be all too real, as are the other shortcomings she detects in the present administration, but they do not add up to the main charge, that the President is politicking rather than governing. She suffers from the limitations of space, of course, but perhaps by marshalling too many "facts," she loses the opportunity to focus on the conclusion.

The paper presented by Mr. Royandoyan is all of a piece—it is obviously the fruit of discussions at "base camp," so to speak, and at the various "camps" that line the way to any summit.

What makes it especially noteworthy is not simply its emphasis on "small stakeholders." It is Royandoyan's recourse to the

"strong-state paradigm." He writes: "It is imperative that the Philippine government re-establishes a major role in the process of economic development." Why? Because the decades-long trend to privatization weakens small farmers, rather than strengthens them; it places "growth and progress" on "tenuous ground."—J. Nery

The WORLD

LUVERNE B. GUECO, Editor

No trace of anthrax found in victim's home, her mail

OXFORD, Connecticut—Deepening the mystery surrounding the nation's latest anthrax death, preliminary tests found no trace of the germ in the 94-year-old victim's home, on her mail or at her post office.

"Testing was focused on the so-called mail trail," Gov. John Rowland said Friday. "I can't speak for the federal au-

thorities, but it's frustrating for all of us."

Authorities were awaiting more definitive results, and testing of Otilie Lundgren's home was not complete.

Investigators with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have meanwhile turned to the few places frequented by Lundgren, a widow who seldom left home except to go to the library, the beauty parlor, the doctor, church and a diner, where she sometimes stopped after her Sat-

urday morning hair appointments.

Three government officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said investigators were seeking a soil sample from the diner, Fritz's Snack Bar, after residents mentioned vague recollections of an anthrax outbreak among livestock at a nearby farm more than 50 years ago.

Officials said the sample was precautionary and they had not yet found records of such an outbreak or the farm. Anthrax spores can live for decades in soil.

Diner co-owner Glenn Fritz said the building has been a restaurant since 1954; before that, it was a liquor store. He said he was unfamiliar with any long-ago outbreak of anthrax, but said, "This whole area used to be farms."

Rowland, who has called the death a case of domestic terrorism, said Connecticut's hospitals have been asked to review the deaths of patients who had flu-like symptoms since Sept. 11 to see whether any anthrax deaths might have gone unnoticed. **AP**



AN AFGHAN elder sits in a mosque before Friday prayers in Kabul Nov. 23. Rival Afghan leaders meet far from the battlefields of their homeland on Monday to seek a formula for national unity, but even the talks' UN sponsors have little hope of rapid success. **REUTERS**

US saw former Afghan king as ineffectual

WASHINGTON—Declassified US documents from his last years as king of Afghanistan portray Mohammad Zahir Shah as an aloof leader reigning over a nation with declining morale and a feeling of hopelessness.

Still, the grandfatherly figure who ruled Afghanistan for four decades now is viewed by many as a symbol of unity for a nation fractured by war and ethnic power struggles.

The 87-year-old former king plans to attend UN-brokered power-sharing talks in Germany next week on Afghanistan's post-Taliban leadership. And the United States and its coalition partners in the war on terrorism hope that Zahir Shah could assume a leadership role, at least as a symbolic figure in a future Afghan government.

Zahir Shah ruled for 40 years before being ousted in a 1973 coup. He now lives in Rome and says he does not want to return to the throne, but hopes to unite the Afghan people and help them establish a representative government.

"He wasn't a very effective leader," said Fiona Hill, an expert on Central Asia at the Brookings Institution, a Washington think tank. "But you have to remember that this guy was born into this. You have to think of him as a monarch, chosen by birth, not by any special ability. He is a king, not a politician and all we can look to him for is a symbolic role."

In the early 1970s, one American diplomat in Kabul privately suggested to the king that he mimic the Depression-era leadership style of US President Franklin Roosevelt. Then-Ambassador Robert Neumann urged Zahir to take bolder steps to fix economic woes threatening Afghanistan's new democratic-leaning government of the time.

"I emphasized the need for a new government to take some psychological actions, such as a speech from the throne, designed to jolt the people and make them aware that this government intended to do something," Neumann wrote in a confidential cable to Washington in August 1971.

"I cited FDR's first few months in office as crucial to his program in which he gave people a sense of hope and thus brought about a turning point in the recovery process even before his programs began to take effect."

Neumann said he told the king that in his more than four years in Afghanistan, he had never heard "so many expressions at all levels of society about a feeling of hopelessness that new government could accomplish anything." **AP**

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Iraq tops US list of next targets

WASHINGTON—Iraq tops the lists of countries where the United States might take its war on terrorism next. Some other places—Somalia, Sudan, Kashmir—could also face military attacks if Osama bin Laden flees there.

Beyond that, America's next steps probably won't involve bombing runs. Instead, US officials will work with police and armies to find suspects, as they've done in the Philippines and Germany, work to cut off money for terror, as they have in Somalia and Saudi Arabia, and urge governments to end support of terrorists as they have with Syria.

In all, the United States will turn, after Afghanistan, to another 40 to 50—perhaps even 60—countries where global terrorist networks operate, top Bush administration officials say.

"Any government that supports or harbors terrorists should be very worried right now," Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz, the main Bush administration supporter for hitting Iraq, said recently.

In recent days, Wolfowitz and other top officials, including national security adviser Condoleezza Rice, have again hinted that Iraq may soon be a target, regardless of whether the United States can definitively tie the nation to the Sept. 11 attacks. **AP**

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A4 Turbo Tiptronic Avant	2,366,700	1,183,350	1,183,350
A6 2.4 Tiptronic	3,075,000	1,537,500	1,537,500
A6 2.4 Tiptronic Quattro	3,438,500	1,719,250	1,719,250
TT Coupe 1.8 180bhp	3,105,000	1,552,500	1,552,500
TT Coupe Quattro 1.8 225 bhp	3,427,000	1,713,500	1,713,500

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Promo Mechanics for SMART Buddy Subscribers:

1. All active SMART Buddy (pre-paid) subscribers in good standing are eligible to participate.
2. To join, SMART Buddy subscribers must register via text. To register, key in CHRISTMAS <name><address><region> and send to 211.
Region codes: Luzon-LZ, Visayas-VS, Mindanao-MN, Metro Manila-MM.
Subscribers will be charged P2.50 per message sent.
3. The cellular phone number of SMART Buddy subscribers will serve as their raffle entry. There can only be one registered name per cellular phone number. Once a subscriber joins, no one else will be allowed to register using the same cellular phone number unless he quits the promo. In the event that the winning cellular phone number was registered under two users within the same month of the promo duration, the current registered name will be recognized. However, one person can register several cellular phone numbers at one time.
4. All registered participants can earn raffle entries in three easy ways:

•Via Smart Buddy Reloads

- Every reload entitles the subscriber to earn raffle entries. The number of raffle entries earned is determined by the cumulative value of reloads at the end of each month as illustrated below:

CUMULATIVE RELOAD VALUE* PER SUBSCRIBER (PER MONTH)	RAFFLE ENTRY(IES)
P300	1
P500	5
P800	12
P1,000	20
every P300 beyond the 1st P1,000	5

*Note: Pre-paid reloading via Call & Text Card, SMART Money and SMART Mobile Banking is entitled to raffle entries.

Raffle entries earned through reloads will be credited after the end of each month (e.g. all entries earned for November will be reflected in a subscriber's raffle entry balance by December 1 only).

•Via Activation

- Each new SMART Buddy SIM card activation during the promo period entitles the subscriber to one (1) entry. The raffle entry earned will be credited at the end of the month.
- All activations for the duration of the promo period will be awarded raffle entries for as long as the subscriber has duly registered for the promo.

•Via SMART IDD

- Every IDD call that reaches a minimum of three (3) minutes in duration is entitled to 3 entries.

5. To view the number of raffle entries earned, key in CHRISTMAS and send to 211.
Rate per CHRISTMAS RAFFLE INQUIRY is P2.50.
6. All entries earned for a particular month will be included in the monthly draw for the same period only. However, all entries not drawn are still qualified for the grand draw on January 11, 2002.
7. The participant can also opt to quit from the promo. To quit, key in CHRISTMAS QUIT and send it to 211. To register the number under a different name, the participant should repeat the registration steps. All valid entries made prior to quitting will still be included in the monthly and grand draw under the registered name.
Rate for CHRISTMAS QUIT is P2.50

Promo Mechanics for SMART GOLD Subscribers:

1. Eligible individual or corporate SMART Gold (post-paid) subscribers can participate in the 2nd preliminary draw and grand draw following their billing cycles.
2. SMART Gold individual, corporate and government subscribers need not register, as they will be automatically included in the promo.
3. If a subscription is under a corporate or government account, in case it is drawn, the prize will be given to the corporate or government account.
4. The cellular phone number will serve as the raffle entry.
5. All registered participants can earn raffle entries in three easy ways:

•Via Monthly Service Fee

- A SMART Gold subscriber exceeding a prescribed minimum monthly billing requirement earns him/her raffle entries.
- For every P250 in excess of the minimum billing requirement of each plan, a Gold subscriber earns additional 5 raffle entries.

GOLD PLAN (current)	GOLD PLAN (old)	MINIMUM MONTHLY BILLING	RAFFLE ENTRY
300 (Corporate)	40	P1,000	20
600	80	P1,500	30
1,200	120 & 160	P2,500	50
1,800	200 & 500	P3,000	60
3,000	750	P4,500	90
4,000	1,000	P6,000	120

* For example, a Gold subscriber under Plan 600 has a billing of P2,500
he/she will earn a total of 50 raffle entries.

Plan	Minimum Monthly Billing Req.	Raffle Entry
Plan 600	P1,500	30+20 = 50 raffle entries

Excess of P1,000 / 250 x 5 = 20

•Via Activation

- Each SMART Gold activation entitles the subscriber to one (1) entry.

•Via SMART IDD

- Every IDD call that reaches a minimum of three (3) minutes in duration is entitled to 3 raffle entries.

6. To view the number of raffle entries that you have earned, key in CHRISTMAS and send to 211. For SMART Gold, balances will be updated at the end of the billing cycle.
Rate per CHRISTMAS RAFFLE INQUIRY is P2.50.

GENERAL Promo Mechanics for SMART Buddy and SMART Gold Subscribers:

1. The draw dates and prizes are as follows:

DRAW DATES	PERIOD COVERED	PRIZES
Dec. 5, 2001	Nov. 1 -30, 2001	• Five (5) winners who can choose from three (3) showcases • Winners will be distributed geographically as follows: 1 winner each from Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao; and 2 winners from Metro Manila
Jan. 10, 2002	Dec. 1-31, 2001	• Ten (10) winners who can choose from three (3) showcases • Winners will be distributed geographically as follows: 2 winners each from Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao; and 4 winners from Metro Manila
GRAND DRAW: Jan. 11, 2002	Nov. 1, 2001 – December 31, 2001	One (1) GRAND PRIZE WINNER OF P2,000,000 IN CASH – TAX-FREE

Showcase 1: Travel/Shopping for 5 persons in Bangkok or Hong Kong plus US\$2,000 pocket money. This package includes 4 days and 3 nights accommodation plus round-trip airfare.

Showcase 2: Digital Dream Showcase (Nokia 9210, DCR-TRV30 Sony Video Camera, Sony Digital Still camera, Compaq iPAQ and Sony PlayStation II)

Showcase 3: Home Theater Showcase Sony Wega 48" (121.92cm) Projection TV and Pioneer HTDI Home Theater System which includes 5-disc DVD/CD changer, satellite speakers, center speaker and an active subwoofer)

2. All the prizes are TAX-FREE. If a showcase winner wants to convert his/her prize to cash, they will be given P175,000.00.

3. A winner may only win once every raffle draw.

4. The promo is from November 21 to December 31, 2001. All activations, reloads and IDD calls made since Nov. 1, 2001 are included in the promo.

5. Winners shall be notified thru the following means:
a. Text Message.
b. Registered Mail

6. Winners within Metro Manila may claim their prizes at the SMART Tower, 6799 Ayala Ave., Makati City. Provincial winners can claim their prizes at the nearest SMART office indicated in the register mail.

7. Winners must present their active SMART GSM cellphone and SIM card, valid I.D. with photo and registered mail when claiming their prizes.
8. All employees of SMART Communications, Inc., Pilipino Telephone Corporation, and their advertising agencies and relatives up to the 2nd degree of affinity or consanguinity are automatically disqualified from the promo.

9. The raffle will be held at the 27/F, SMART Tower, 6799 Ayala Ave., Makati City. Draws will be held at 12NN on December 5, January 10 and January 11.

10. Prizes should be claimed within 60 days from notification of winners.

*Actual prizes may vary from the ones shown.



Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1939, Series of 2001.

Israel kills Hamas leader as US readies peace mission

NABLUS, West Bank—An Israeli missile strike killed a senior member of the militant Islamic group Hamas, prompting a vow of revenge as Washington prepared a new mission hoping to end 14 months of Israeli-Palestinian violence.

The slain Hamas military leader, Mahmoud Abu Hanoud, was high on Israel's most-wanted list. A Hamas official said his death near Nablus in the West Bank on Friday would be avenged.

"Experience has shown that the military wing of Hamas reacts to the Israeli crimes and always strikes back. God willing, there will be a painful response against the criminal enemy," Abdel-Aziz al-Rantissi, a Hamas political leader, said in Gaza.

Hanoud, his deputy Ayman Hashaikah, and a third man were killed when Israeli helicopters fired missiles at their car. Their bodies were so badly burned and dismembered that identification was delayed, Palestinian officials said.

The attack brought to at least seven the number of Palestinians to die violently on Friday, one day after five Palestinian boys were killed in an explosion in the Gaza Strip that Palestinian authorities blamed on an Israeli booby-trap.

"The grave Israeli escalation in the last 24 hours has exceeded all red lines," Nabil Abu Rdainah, a senior adviser to Palestinian President Yasser Arafat, said in a statement.

Rdainah accused Israel of trying to sabotage the US peace effort, in which former US Marine Corps General Anthony Zinni and Assistant Secretary of State William Burns are due to arrive in the region on Monday.

The United States wants calm in the Middle East to bolster Arab support for its efforts to capture Saudi-born Osama bin Laden, who it says was behind the suicide plane attacks on Washington and New York on Sept. 11.

At least 720 Palestinians and 188 Israelis have been killed since a uprising against Israeli occupation erupted in September 2000, shortly after peace talks stalled.

Hamas has killed scores of Israelis in suicide bombings in recent years and has played an important role in the uprising.

Israel, which had tried to kill Hanoud several times, did not immediately comment on his death.

The Palestinians accuse Israel of assassinating more than 70 Palestinians since the uprising began. Israel says its policy, which has been internationally condemned, is aimed at Palestinians who plan or carry out attacks.

In the violence earlier on Friday, Israeli troops shot dead a Palestinian teenager in a stone-throwing confrontation in the Gaza Strip and two Palestinian men died in a West Bank explosion, possibly while preparing a bomb.

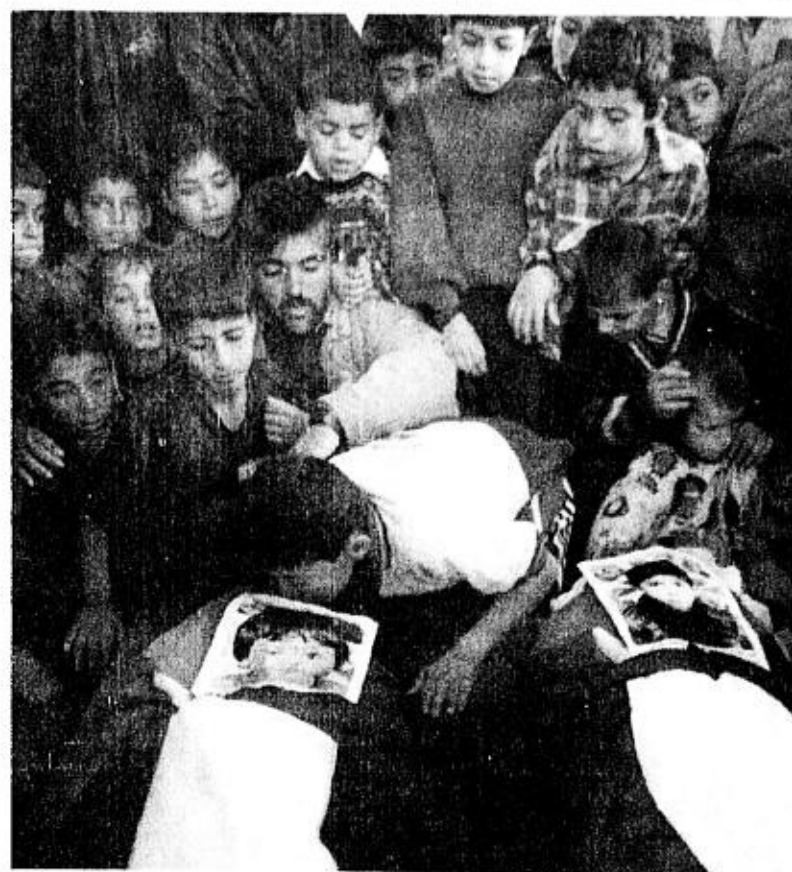
Israeli troops shot at a civilian

car, killing a Palestinian man and critically wounding a woman near Gaza's Rafah border crossing with Egypt.

Israeli military sources said soldiers shot at the car after it approached their position and did not heed warning shots. The Palestinian Authority said the five schoolboys who were killed in Khan Younis refugee camp on Thursday were blown up by an Israeli booby-trap and demanded an international inquiry.

The United States called the incident a tragic accident which Israel must investigate. Israeli Defense Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer said the boys' deaths were a "human tragedy" and that an inquiry was underway.

Marwan Barghout, a senior leader of Arafat's Fatah faction in the West Bank, condemned the new violence and called for new pressure on Israel to lift blockades of many Palestinian areas. **Reuters**



A PALESTINIAN boy kisses the body of one of five schoolboys killed Nov. 22 when one of them kicked an unexploded Israeli tank shell as they walked to school at Khan Younis refugee camp, southern Gaza Strip, Nov. 23. A senior Palestinian official on Friday accused Israel of setting a booby-trapped device that killed the five boys, and called for an international investigation. **REUTERS**

UN REPORT

Indonesia cops get away with torture

GENEVA—Indonesia's military and police are getting away with torture because victims are afraid to complain or fail to get a fair hearing, a UN committee said Friday.

The UN Committee against Torture said it was concerned by a "large number of allegations of acts of torture and ill-treatment committed by the members of the police forces... and paramilitary groups reportedly linked to authorities."

The committee of 10 independent human-rights experts said officers allegedly involved in sexual violence and torture benefit from a "climate of impunity because there has been little progress in bringing to trial members of the military, the police or other state officials, particularly those holding senior positions."

Indonesian officials told the committee that several members of the security forces, including high-ranking ones, have been sentenced for human rights abuses.

But the country faces obstacles in

its efforts to promote human rights, including limited financial resources and a lack of staff to cover the vast territory, the officials said.

The committee, issuing conclusions Friday on Indonesia's efforts to end torture, said many victims of torture face intimidation and are not given adequate protection by authorities if they try to complain.

The Southeast Asian nation, like the other 125 countries that have signed the 1984 UN Convention against Torture, must submit reports to show what it has done to apply the rules.

Indonesia, which ratified the convention in 1998, told the committee that it was trying to make law enforcement officials more aware of the accord and had set up special human rights courts last year.

The committee said it was "aware of the difficulty faced by (Indonesia) in view of the armed secessionist conflicts in several parts of its territory." **AP**

Milosevic charged with Bosnia genocide

THE HAGUE—The United Nations war crimes tribunal said on Friday it had charged Slobodan Milosevic with genocide and other atrocities in Bosnia, in its third and gravest indictment against the former Yugoslav leader.

Milosevic, the most prominent European to face a war crimes court since the Nuremberg trials of Nazi leaders at the end of World War Two, is charged in the new indictment with responsibility for Serb atrocities in the 1992-95 Bosnian war.

The indictment chronicles some of the darkest episodes of the bitter conflict, from the shelling of Sarajevo to the slaughter of civilians at Sanksi Most, Srebrenica and Zvornik.

The tribunal's Chief Prosecutor Carla del Ponte accuses Milosevic, 60, of taking part in a "joint criminal enterprise" that led to the deaths and imprisonment of thousands of Bosnian Muslims and Bosnian Croats.

He is also accused of acting in concert with the tribunal's two most wanted men—fugitive Bosnian Serb wartime leader Radovan Karadzic and his military commander Ratko Mladic—to expel non-Serbs from large swathes of Bosnia, a practice that would become known as "ethnic cleansing."

Milosevic, who turned from Marx-



MILOSEVIC

ism to Serbian nationalism as the six republics of the former Yugoslavia fragmented, refused to plead earlier this year to charges of crimes against humanity in Croatia in 1991-92 and Kosovo in 1999.

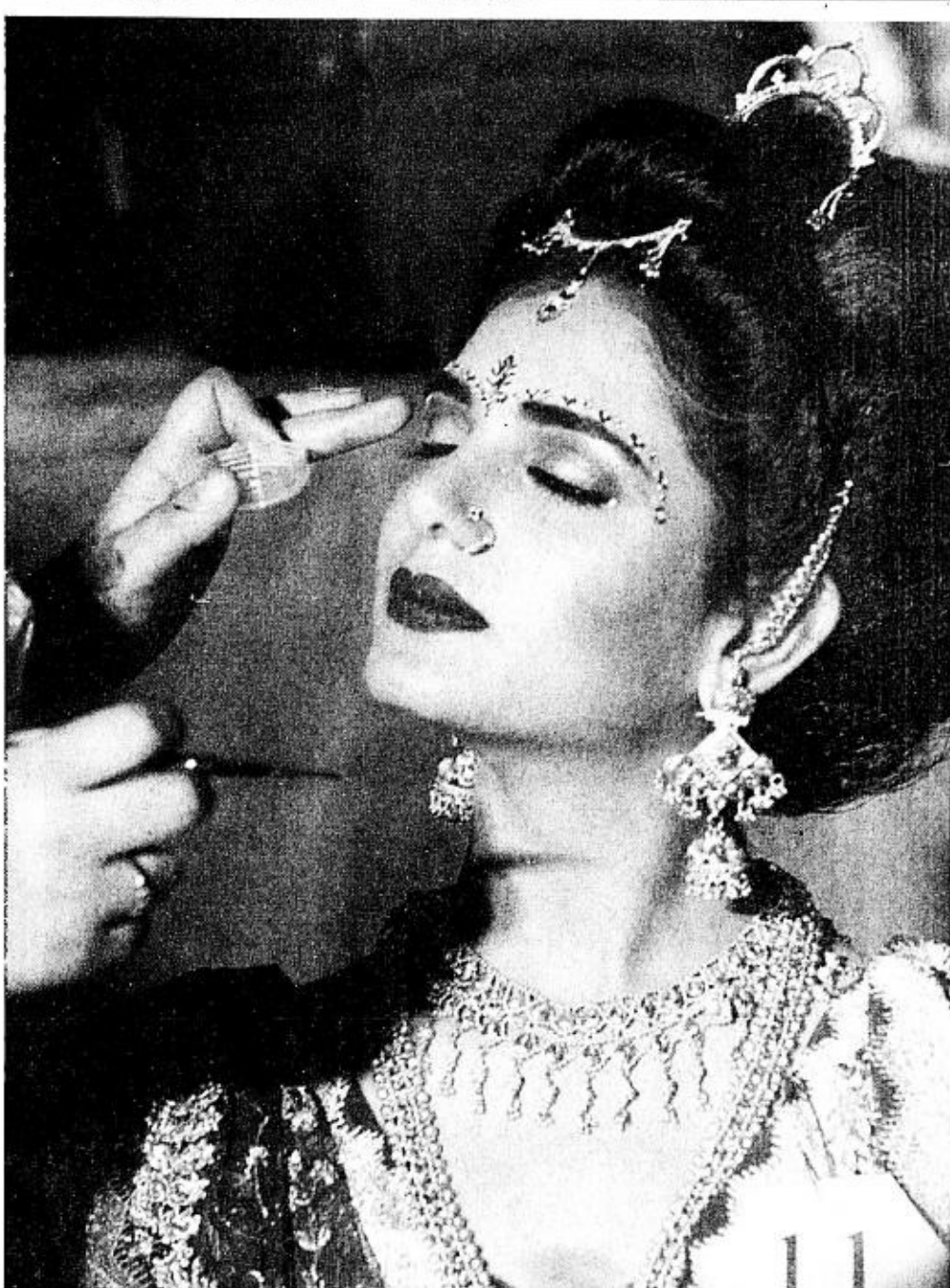
The Bosnia indictment—which rounds off charges covering all three conflicts during Milosevic's 13-year rule—contains 29 counts, including genocide and complicity in genocide, crimes against humanity and grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions.

"Slobodan Milosevic participated in a joint criminal enterprise, the purpose of which was the forcible and permanent removal of the majority of non-Serbs... from large areas of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina," the indictment said.

Milosevic, who considers the war crimes court "illegal" and flagrantly biased, will be asked to plead to the new charges in court next month.

The ousted Serb leader would remain defiant in the face of a tribunal he does not recognize, one of the lawyers defending him on domestic corruption charges in Belgrade said.

"Milosevic will certainly have his stance on this and it will be political above all, considering that the entire trial that is being conducted against him is political," Dragan Ognjanovic said. **Reuters**



WEDDING SEASON IN INDIA

A hair and beauty professional gives final touches to a model in traditional bridal attire during the "Beautiful Brides" section of the Sunilk Salon Awards in New Delhi Nov. 21. With the wedding season in full swing in India, beauty-related businesses are gearing up for a brisk trade. **AFP**

'Living Buddha' at Chinese monastery dies

BEIJING—A Tibetan "living Buddha," who was also a top official in China's state-backed Buddhist organization, has died of a serious illness at the age of 67, state media said on Saturday.

Cheoshi Lobsang Palten Lunrik Gyatso from the politically controversial Kumbum Monastery in western China died in a Beijing hospital on Wednesday, the Communist Party newspaper People's Daily said. It did not give the cause of death.

"We have been chanting sutras every day to commemorate him," said a monk at Kumbum, at the foot of green Lotus Mountain, just outside the city of Xining in the western province of Qinghai.

He said it was not yet known whether Cheoshi's body would be cremated—standard practice in most of Communist China—or be picked apart by vultures according to the ancient Tibetan rite known as sky burial.

"The other living Buddhas are practicing divination and chanting sutras to choose the best way," he said. "It will take another one or two days to decide."

Residents of the Kumbum monastery have included exiled Tibetan spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, who lived there when he was a boy, but fled to India in 1959 after a failed uprising against Chinese rule.

Beijing attacks the Dalai Lama as a supporter of independence for Tibet, which China has claimed as its territory since 1950.

Kumbum, which dates back to 1560, is one of the six leading monasteries of the "Yellow Hat" sect of Buddhism.

The People's Daily hailed the "living Buddha," Cheoshi, as he was known, as a "steadfast life-long patriot" who "clearly opposed national splittists and safeguarded the unity of the motherland."

The ninth incarnation of the Panchen Lama—Tibet's second highest religious figure—designated the Qinghai-born Cheoshi a "living Buddha" at age two in 1936, the People's Daily said.

He was one of more than 10 "living Buddhas" at the Kumbum monastery, according to the monk, and he was also deputy chair of the Chinese Buddhist Association.

He served in the 1980s as head of Kumbum's state-approved management committee, a post later held by monastery abbot Arjia Rinpoche, who fled to the United States in 1998 because of what he called growing pressure to "compromise his religious beliefs." **Reuters**

100 Colombia miners find death, not gold

FILADELPHIA, Colombia—Gerardo Suaza, who narrowly escaped death when a landslide came crashing onto a gold mine here, stared at the sea of mud and rocks that buried as many as 100 people, including seven of his relatives.

"The mountain appeared to crash on us. I tried to save my brothers but it was impossible—the mud took them," said Suaza, a 46-year-old man, who like dozens of others risked his life daily in the derelict mine to eke out a living.

A massive mudslide Thursday crashed onto the open-pit mine in Filadelfia, in the heart of Colombia's coffee-growing Caldas department.

Heavy rains have pounded the area for days, but rescue officials say the landslide could have been triggered by

the dynamite the prospectors used to uncover glints of the precious metal.

So far, rescuers retrieved 61 bodies.

Fire chief Oscar Mejia said that between 50 and 70 gold prospectors are still missing, but added "the possibility that these people are alive is practically nil."

The mine was officially shut down five years ago, but this did not deter prospectors, many of them farmers left landless by the armed conflict that has raged for four decades in Colombia.

"We all knew the risks we were facing," said Suaza.

"I only want to find my son Juan Esteban alive," wailed a woman who traveled to Ampola from the nearby town of Irra.

Another anxious relative, Ana Paniagua, 45, gave up hopes of seeing her son alive after rescuers retrieved the lifeless body of her husband. "I just hope they find the body of my son so I can give him a Christian burial alongside his father," she said, sobbing.

Several people said they would not leave the site without the body of their loved ones.

"And if we have to dig them out with our bare hands, we shall do so," said Mario Cifuentes, who lost a brother to the tragedy.

More than 100 fire and emergency crew members began at first light Friday their push to recover those buried in the mud, their work hampered by the overflow from the swollen Cauca river, which runs alongside this rural com-

munity 300 km west of the capital.

The crews were expected to work at least through Sunday, using special equipment and search dog in hopes to find survivors, according to rescue officials.

Many foreign countries, including France, have offered assistance in the wake of the tragedy.

Shovel-wielding rescue workers also had to contend with the crowd of grieving family members who shuddered at the sight of dismembered bodies floating to the top of the mine shaft.

Many of the dead were likely to be children, who often accompanied their parents into the mine.

Rescuers also worried that a new mudslide could come crashing onto the site of the tragedy. **AFP**

Inventors face greater difficulties in breaking through

BY PHILIP BLENKINSOP

NUREMBERG—A robot golf caddy, rubber soil and that old faithful, the miracle hair restorer, are on show in Nuremberg this month as inventors the world over try to turn their ideas into moneyspinners.

But the message of many at the congress, one of the world's largest such trade fairs, is that the next Thomas Edison, inventor of the light bulb, or motor-car pioneer Carl Benz faces ever greater difficulties breaking through.

Dieter Bach, president of the German Inventors Association,

complained that the costs small inventors incur protecting their ideas had increased in recent years.

Small firms and individuals were far more inventive than larger concerns, he said. "Why then is it that it's just the innovations from large corporations that are promoted, while the independent inventors are left to fend for themselves?" he asked.

Bach's comments hit a common nerve in Nuremberg this month, where inventors talked of the difficulties of converting ideas into firm business plans and marketable products.

Sepp Kanzian said it had been a long, tough year to find a taker for his

"Bikers Dream" mini-pump, although businessmen were eventually convinced of his design.

Others were at the start of that long road, such as Romy Salvagno, a designer whose stand was filled with drawings and small-scale models of her project—the robot golf caddy.

The humanoid figure, golf clubs sprouting from its shoulders and with an umbrella on its head, would be the ideal all-season friend to golf addicts the world over, Salvagno said.

"I've often found golf clubs don't allow you to take a trolley from November to March because they dig into the soft ground. With a two-legged ro-

bot you could focus on your golf throughout the year," she said.

The estimated price of 15,000 marks (\$6,750) might deter potential customers. For now, she needs an entrepreneur to inject funds.

The Nuremberg "Ideas, Inventions and New Products" (IENA) exhibition, now in its 53rd year, is one of the world's largest such trade fairs with over 600 inventions from independent inventors from about 40 countries.

The inventions on show displayed a mixture of vain hope and reality.

The Korean hands-free mobile phone kit, using air tubes no wires, promises to take radio waves away

from the brain. It has already won the Gold Award at the London International Invention Show.

A pocket-sized pouch that can be used in an emergency or protect against the inhalation of smoke and toxins may see a growing market in the new era of global uncertainty following the September attacks on the United States.

Some, such as the instant hair fringe kit, have found investors. Others, including the Taiwanese inventor of the all-in-one urinal and wash-basin and the German team fitting umbrellas on bicycles, were still looking.

Farag Moussa, president of the In-

ternational Federation of Inventors Associations (IFIA), said the lack of a worldwide system of patent protection was a chief worry of inventors.

"Who from Europe can go to court in Japan. There's the cost and the language... For a bigger company of course it's different," Moussa told Reuters in an interview.

"Say you want to obtain a driving license. You have to pass an exam. For almost every country, you can then come here and rent a car. You don't have to take another exam." **Reuters**

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Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

Low turnout seen in ARMM polls

BY ARMAND N. NOCUM
ROLLY A. SAN JUAN
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PDI Mindanao Bureau

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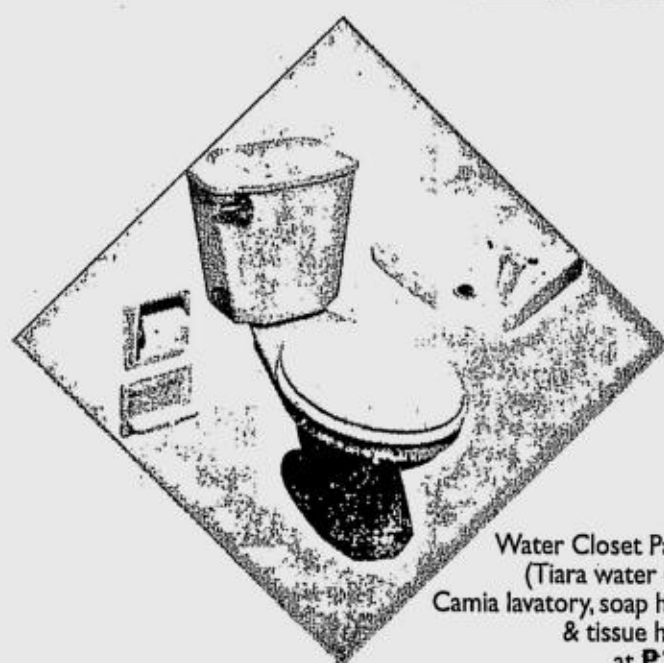
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LOW/p.16

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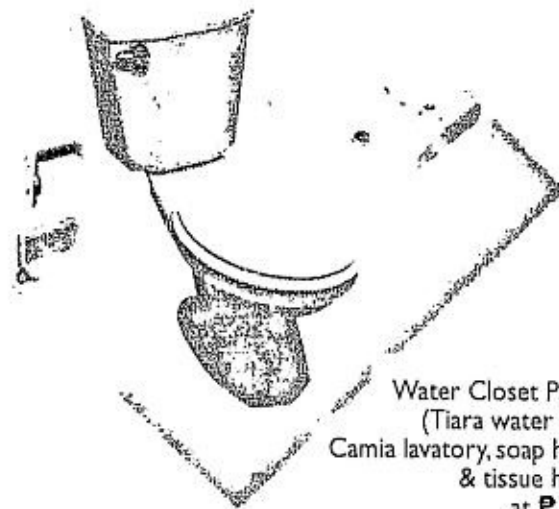
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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Bicol Region, Visayas and Mindanao including Palawan will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of Luzon will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly cloudy to cloudy	HI 31° Lo 20°
Baguio	Partly cloudy to cloudy	HI 25° Lo 12°
Tuguegarao	Partly cloudy to cloudy	HI 30° Lo 24°
Laosag	Partly cloudy to cloudy	HI 30° Lo 23°
Clark Zone	Partly cloudy to cloudy	HI 31° Lo 22°
Tagaytay	Partly cloudy to cloudy	HI 29° Lo 18°
Legazpi	Cloudy with rainshowers	HI 31° Lo 24°
Calapan	Cloudy with rainshowers	HI 29° Lo 23°
Bacolod	Cloudy with rainshowers	HI 30° Lo 23°
Roxas	Cloudy with rainshowers	HI 30° Lo 25°
Cebu	Cloudy with rainshowers	HI 30° Lo 24°
Tacloban	Cloudy with rainshowers	HI 28° Lo 24°
Gen. Santos	Cloudy with rainshowers	HI 32° Lo 23°
Zamboanga	Cloudy with rainshowers	HI 32° Lo 24°
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with rainshowers	HI 31° Lo 23°
Davao	Cloudy with rainshowers	HI 31° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Armin P. Adina, PDI Research/11/24/01

ROUNDUP

2 soldiers die in ambush

MAGSINGAL: Ilocos Sur—Two soldiers were killed while two others were wounded Monday in an ambush by suspected communist rebels. Supt. Fidel Cimatu, Ilocos Sur police director, said the soldiers were patrolling a mountainous area in Barangay Maratodo when they chanced upon 30 armed men believed to be New People's Army rebels. The names of the fatalities were withheld pending notification of their relatives. The wounded soldiers, Pfc. Jose Asug and Cpl. Reynaldo Aquino, were taken to the Metro Vigan Cooperative Hospital in Vigan City.

Cristina Arzadon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Noise barrage for P7,000

BAGUIO CITY: Around 100 students and employees of the University of the Philippines College Baguio staged a noise barrage Wednesday to step up calls for the grant of benefits to UP employees. "What the administration wants is only P2,500 (in Christmas incentive grant), but what we want is for the administration to restore the P7,000," Raulita Gutierrez, spokesperson of the All UP Workers Alliance here, said. The students and employees offered a native chicken, played gongs and performed a Cordillera community dance during the protest.

Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Anti-dump resolution

BALANGA CITY: Militant groups and the Mamamayan ng Bataan Laban sa Basura ng Kamaynilaan, including clergy members, trooped to the provincial board session hall to press for a resolution not to allow Metro Manila to dump its garbage in Bagac town. Board members led by Vice Gov. Rogelio Roque welcomed the groups' stand and suggested the creation of a task force on garbage to address ways to solve the crisis.

Greg Refracion, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Nat'l readership confab

A RECENTLY retired career diplomat, Ambassador Edmundo Libid, will preside at the first National Readership Assembly on Nov. 29 at the Teachers Camp in Baguio City. The meeting is under the joint auspices of the Mass Movement for Readership Inc. and the National Book Development Board. The conference, which presages the 6th National Press Congress, will discuss the fostering of readership habit to achieve the full benefits and advantages of higher literacy and education for all.

Shabu, marijuana seized

DAVAO CITY: Some P125,000 worth of shabu and two kilos of marijuana were seized from two suspected drug pushers here. First to fall was a certain Norodin Esmal, 29, a native of Sultan Kudarat, who allegedly yielded P125,000 worth of shabu (methamphetamine hydrochloride). Police also arrested Willie Diaz of Bunawan District, who allegedly yielded two kilos of marijuana. In Digos City, Willie Navares, 43, a driver from Mabini, Corregidor, Davao del Sur, was shot dead Thursday by suspected vigilantes. Allegedly found in his possession were four sachets of shabu.

Dennis Jay C. Santos, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Hanging bridge planned

STO. DOMINGO, Albay: Local officials plan to build a hanging bridge over the Basud River in place of the Basud spillway that connects Albay's first and second districts. The proposal aims to solve the perennial traffic problem caused by volcanic debris from Mt. Mayon's slopes that are carried by floodwaters into the Basud River. Boulders, gravel and sand usually cover the spillway, obstructing traffic flow. Mayor Herbie Agas said the proposed bridge would cost about P200 million.

Job Belen, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Cop survives attack

BUENAVISTA, Quezon: A woman was killed and a man was wounded during a foiled attempt by three suspected communist men to kill a policeman here Tuesday. Police identified the civilian fatality as Evelyn Noriel, of Barangay Silang here, and the wounded as Dioscoro Borja, a tricycle driver. Police said two of the attackers, said to be New People's Army rebels, surrendered. They were identified as Roni Maganero of Camarines Norte and Antonio Novelo of Camalig, Albay. Recovered from them were two pistols and a grenade.

Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Natural family planning

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY: Condoms, birth control pills and other artificial methods of family planning will be banned here starting Dec. 7. Mayor Dennis Socrates said the city health office would no longer give out condoms and pills to clients and perform operations, such as insertion of intra-uterine device, vasectomy or ligation. The mayor, a member of the Opus Dei, said, "We should not fear the increase in population." The CHO will instead promote natural family planning.

Jofelle P. Tesorio, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

High-powered guns seized in Canlaon

BY ROMY G. AMARADO
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY: Are loose firearms now proliferating among influential people in Canlaon City?

Concerned residents here raised this question after members of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group in Central Visayas seized on Friday over a dozen high-powered firearms in Barangay Lumapao of Canlaon, 156 kilometers northwest of this city.

Armed with a search warrant issued by Regional Trial Court Judge Soliver Paras of Branch 10 in Cebu City, the CIDG officers headed by Chief Insp. Medardo Posadas and Senior Insp. Leo Tolentino swooped down on a farmhouse owned by a certain Jomar Alonzo.

Alonzo is believed to be an administrator of a former ambassador, whose name is being withheld by the police pending verification.

The raiding team confiscated five M-14 rifles, three M-16 rifles, five grenade launchers, three .38 cal. handguns, a 12-gauge shotgun and hundreds of rounds of ammunition.

The police, however, failed to arrest Alonzo as he was not around during the raid.

A member of the raiding team told the INQUIRER that the warrant was secured in Cebu City to ensure that no one will be able to tip off the suspected owners of the firearms.

Last month, the same group of lawmen seized in separate raids several firearms from a brother and brother-in-law of Canlaon

Mayor Judith Cardenas.

In that operation, the CIDG confiscated two M-16 rifles, a 12-gauge shotgun, a .380 Llama handgun and several rounds of ammunition from the house of Wagner Cardenas, 52, in Barangay Panubigan, Canlaon.

Wagner's brother, Jose, was the former vice mayor of Canlaon. Jose was killed in a New People's Army ambush last April, at the height of his mayoral campaign for the May 14 elections.

Judith replaced her husband as a candidate and won the race.

Authorities also confiscated last month an M-16 rifle, a shotgun, a .45 cal. pistol and assorted ammunition from the house of Rolando Blanco, 49, in Barangay Mabigo, Canlaon.

Blanco is a brother of Mayor Cardenas. He is also a former councilor of Canlaon.

Wagner and Blanco were arrested and charged with illegal possession of firearms before RTC Branch 64, based in Guihulngan, Negros Oriental.

Wagner and Blanco are now out on bail. Earlier, the mayor's son, Marvin, who is in his 20s, figured in a gun-toting and physical injury case in neighboring San Carlos City.

A report from San Carlos police indicated that several high-powered firearms were discovered inside the young Cardenas' vehicle. He was with seven other companions during the incident.

Marvin was also charged with illegal possession of firearms and is also now out on bail.

Iraqi missionary nabbed by soldiers

AWANG, Maguindanao: Government troops on Friday arrested a Middle Easterner who allegedly has links with suspected international terrorist Osama bin Laden.

Authorities also said tampered passports and explosives-making devices were recovered from the suspect.

Armed with an arrest warrant issued by Judge Demetrio Macapagal of the Quezon City-based regional trial court, soldiers, led by Army Col. Antonio Romero, chief of the Army's 603rd Infantry Brigade, surrounded the house of Mohammad Sabri Selamah, an Iraqi residing in Barangay Crossing Simuay, Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao.

"There were reports that some Arab-looking persons believed to have links with al-Qaida or Osama bin Laden were sighted in Maguindanao. Maybe this is it," Maj. Julieto Ando, 6th Infantry Division spokesperson, said.

But Ghazali Jaafar, vice chair for political affairs of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and a "neighbor" of Mohammad, said the arrested Arab man was a religious missionary teaching how to memorize the Koran.

"He has been here since 1997, and is a dedicated preacher. I don't think he has links to suspected terrorists," Jaafar told radio dxMS here.

Two companies of soldiers surrounded Mohammad's house at 4 a.m.

Friday. He agreed to be brought by the military to its camp around 10 a.m.

"He did not resist arrest but the arresting officers had to explain to him that his rights will not be violated," Ando said, adding that the raid was conducted in the presence of local officials.

Ando said soldiers recovered components of explosives, a stamp pad for passport making and other vital documents. Selamah reportedly has Jordanian and Palestinian passports.

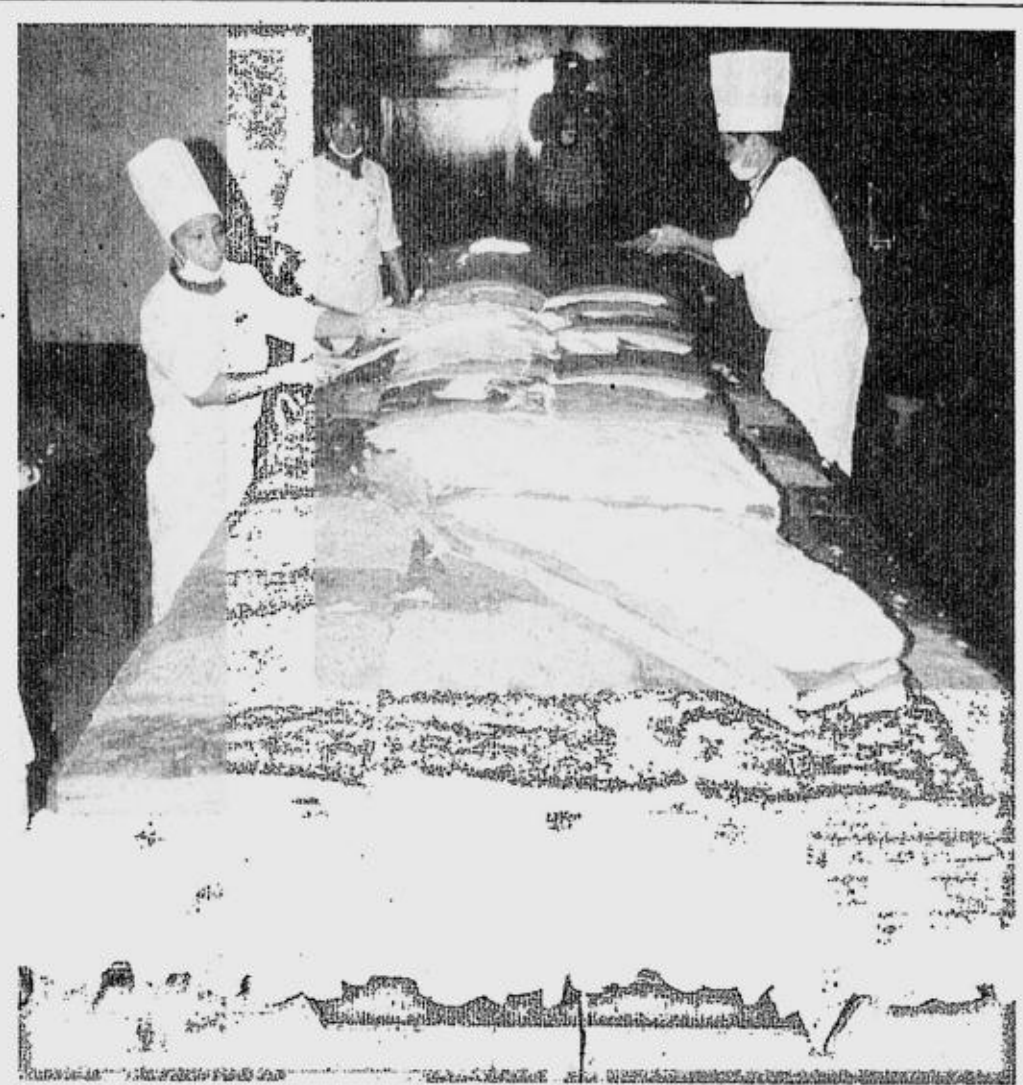
Asked about the offense for which the suspect was arrested, Ando said he only received the report from Colonel Romero and could not give other details.

Romero could not be reached for comment as of press time. Judge Demetrio Macapagal of the regional trial court in Quezon City issued the warrant of arrest for Selamah.

The raid caused panic among residents in Barangay Simuay because of the presence of about two companies of soldiers backed by armored personnel carriers.

Jaafar said Selamah was married to a Maguindanao woman with whom he has three children.

"The children and the wife went with him when he was taken," Jaafar said. Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau



LARGEST CARROT CAKE

Chefs and bakers of the Baguio Country Club prepare Benguet's King Carrot Cake, said to be the largest carrot cake in the country's history, which was presented Friday, to mark the province's 101st founding anniversary.

BY ESPRITU

Arson suspected in power coop blaze

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya: Investigators are looking into the possibility of arson in the fire that gutted a building of the Nueva Vizcaya Electric Cooperative Inc. (Nuvelco) in Dupax del Sur town early Monday.

Chief Insp. Joselito Cortez, provincial fire marshal, expressed suspicion on the failure of Nuvelco personnel to appear in a scheduled meeting with arson investigators on Thursday.

"We do not want to speculate, but we are giving them (Nuvelco personnel) a second chance to respond to our invitation," Cortez said. "Once they fail, that will be seriously considered as a possible lead."

Fire razed the two-story Nuvelco building, which served as warehouse and records offices, in Barangay Gabut, Dupax del Sur at 1:45 a.m. on Monday. The fire also burned the three vehicles of the cooperative.

Patrick Flores, Nuvelco general manager, could not be reached for comment. Top Nuvelco officials were reportedly having a conference at their main office in Gabut, 26 km from here.

Initial reports from the police showed that faulty electrical wiring caused the fire.

But SFO2 Arnold Mamuric, provincial fire operations officer, dismissed the

report, saying they have yet to issue an official pronouncement on the cause of the fire.

"It will be ridiculous to conclude that (faulty electrical wiring) was the cause of the fire because they (Nuvelco) are supposed to be experts in electrical wiring," he said.

Mamuric said the fire could have been started deliberately, especially that the building supposedly contained "sensitive" financial records.

Electric consumers feared that the fire could be used to cover up the supposed financial losses that continued to hound the cooperative. Melvin Gascon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Low... (From page 15)

The Comelec office said 9,253 precincts have been established in the expanded ARMM with Maguindanao having 2,834 precincts; Lanao del Sur, 2,551; Sulu, 1,824; Tawi-Tawi, 577; Basilan, 937; and Marawi, 230.

Troop deployment

The deployment of fresh troops to Sulu brought to eight the number of battalions involving some 4,000 soldiers in that island-province.

The three battalions, which arrived on board the navy vessel BRP Benguet, are from the Marine Battalion Landing Team and the Army's 19th and 59th Infantry Battalion.

"Let us fight and kill if we must and defend the advocacy of what is good and just," Army's Tabak Division commander Maj. Gen. Glicerio Sua told the soldiers in a send-off message before the latter's departure of Sulu.

Sua stressed that they were running not after the MNLF but against Misuari's renegade forces.

Top officials of the MNLF's Executive Council of 15, the group which ousted Misuari as MNLF chair, yesterday asked the residents of Western Mindanao, including Zamboanga City, to take extra precautions as the worst can happen before tomorrow's elections.

Maj. Gen. Abdul Sahrin, chief of the general staff intelligence services and chair of the MNLF joint monitoring committee who is also a member of the Executive Council of 15, said Zamboanga City residents should be prepared for possible attacks by Misuari's forces.

"Just be prepared because problems are bound to occur," Sahrin said.

Misuari has 400 to 500 heavily armed followers in Sulu and between 60 to 100 others in Zamboanga City, mostly concentrated in the ARMM property in Cabatagan, Sahrin said.

In Cagayan de Oro City, Jose Rufino, secretary and Presidential liaison officer for Political Affairs, said Saturday that the outcome of the elections "is beyond personal politics and would realize and determine the intent of the 1996 peace agreement between the government and the MNLF."

Brig. Gen. Santiago Prejido, 401st Brigade commander, said security measures in Lanao del Sur were already in place.

More than 2,000 soldiers, police personnel and militiamen have been briefed of their functions including the delivery and retrieval of election materials to and from the polling places, he said.

He added that from the 10 of 38 towns in Lanao del Sur, originally declared as 'hotspots,' only six were finally declared under Comelec control. These are Butig, Masiu, Madalum, Sultan Dumlalongdong, Bayang and Lumbatan.

Election officers in these towns have asked the Comelec and the military to provide maximum security for their areas.

Prejido said these towns usually experienced violence during elections because of intense political rivalry.

With a report from AFP

PDI man elected board member of int'l rights group



LOZANO

DAVAO CITY: INQUIRER correspondent Joey R.B. Lozano was elected to the board of directors of Witness, a New York-based human rights group, joining actors Tim Robbins and Susan Sarandon.

Witness, an independent organization, was once part of the prestigious Lawyers Committee for Human Rights in New York. It arms individuals and organizations with video cameras for use in human rights defense and advocacy.

Witness is chaired by renowned musician and Grammy winner Peter Gabriel.

Lozano, 50, writes investigative reports about indigenous peoples' rights and the environment in Mindanao.

He had been given recognition by the J.V. Ongpin Awards for Investigative Journalism.

Lozano began his human rights work in 1984 when he served as volunteer to the Task Force Detainees of the Philippines-Marbel Unit.

Lozano went to the University of Chicago as a Human Rights Program fellow at the Center for International Studies from September 2000 to March 2001. Joselle Badilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Int'l healing festival held in Pangasinan

BY FRANK CIMATU
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

MANAOAG, Pangasinan: Faith healer Alex Orbito had barely arrived from abroad two weeks ago when Director General Leandro Mendoza, Philippine National Police chief, came to seek audience.

"I am a nobody for General Mendoza to come and talk with me," Orbito recalled.

He may be condescending but Orbito is one of the famous faith healers in the world. He has been known for undertaking surgery using his bare hands and leaving no scars in the process.

Usually abroad 300 days a year, he heals thousands of patients mostly in Europe. Among his patients are American actor Shirley MacLaine and government ministers in Spain and Poland.

And as it turned out, Mendoza sought Orbito for a healing session, even bringing with him his mother.

Orbito did not reveal Mendoza's health inquiries but he took the time to discuss with the police director the security for the five-day Third International Healing Festival, which ends today at the Pyramid of Asia here.

Orbito said foreign patients and healers were hesitant to come to the Philippines because of the Abu Sayyaf kidnappings and terrorist threats in Mindanao and in other parts of the country.

"We have the second number of kidnapping cases next to Colombia. We come first in Southeast Asia as the most dangerous place to visit, followed by Malaysia and Indonesia," Orbito said in Filipino.

He said that last April, about 150

Italians booked reservations for the healing festival. After the Dos Palmas kidnapping in Palawan in May and the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the United States, only 15 foreigners wanted to attend the festival.

"Many of our patients would wait for us in Bangkok rather than proceed here," Orbito said.

He said 60 patients from the US, Canada, Switzerland, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Sweden, Poland, Denmark, Czech Republic and India will attend the festival.

When the First International Healing Festival was held here in 1999, more than 200 foreign patients and healers attended.

Last year, only 120 participants attended because of the Abu Sayyaf kidnappings in Basilan.

"I had to convince my patients that Northern Luzon is very far from (Manila and Mindanao)," Orbito said.

Mendoza assured the security of the foreign visitors during the festival as well as those of the local delegates attending the event.

During the festival, patients will undergo healing sessions under Orbito and 25 members of the Philippine Healing Circle.

Ten international healers will also undertake healing and give lectures on psychic surgery and other alternative forms of healing.

The main attraction of the festival, other than Orbito, is the Pyramid of Asia, a 10-foot high pyramid made of Sumatran wood and stone.

Built at \$360,000 in 1997 and completed in 1999, the Pyramid of Asia is said to have cosmic energy as powerful as that of the Pyramid of Giza in Egypt.

INQUIRER Mindanao

JUN BANDAYREL, Editor ■ NICO A. ALCONABA, Bureau Chief

How do you solve a problem like Nur?

BY NORALYN MUSTAFA
Jolo, Sulu

NUR Misuari's reported arrest yesterday on an island off Sabah, Malaysia, has only confirmed information that the embattled governor of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao and founding chair of the Moro National Liberation Front had fled the country and gone into hiding.

But while reports were made to appear that he disappeared right after the dawn attack on Nov. 19 on police outposts and military detachments in three outlying towns and at Army brigade headquarters in Jolo, a well-informed source said Misuari left Jolo before the strikes.

"That is very characteristic of Misuari," a veteran MNLF fighter said. "He will order his followers to attack, but he will always ensure he is out of harm's way. This is exactly what happened in 1974. We fought and died while he was safe in Saudi Arabia."

Branded by his comrades-in-arms as "the only revolutionary leader who has never been in combat," the source, who belonged to one of the original batches of foreign-trained *mujahideen*, lamented the government's "tolerance" of Misuari's pronouncements and actions which, he said, "were very clear."

The top-ranking MNLF officer, one of those who had turned his back on his former leader much earlier, was alluding to a gathering in Sulu recently where Misuari virtually renewed his call for an independent state, the *Bangsamoro Republik*, with him as "President."

But the war drums on the slope of Bud Biahian in Silangkan on Nov. 3 where Misuari presided over the "5th Bangsamoro Congress" beat so loud that no one, especially residents of Jolo, took it lightly.

The fiery and defiant speech of the beleaguered leader at the assembly was clearly directed at the government that he described as "foolish" and the 15 members of the MNLF executive committee, whom he branded as "traitors," that ousted him as chair of the erstwhile separatist movement.

But for many, it sounded like more of a last-ditch effort to seek another postponement of the regional elections scheduled tomorrow, because, however, the constituency will vote, a duly elected governor will replace Misuari and end his five-year tenure and hold on power, at least in the legitimate government.

Vintage Misuari

The rhetoric, according to the veteran MNLF fighters, was vintage Misuari, full of claims that may or may not be true, exhortations and warnings of dire consequences unless his wishes were followed, while emphasizing that he was "a man of peace."

And the setting for the speech was one that only a master showman could have conceived.

Silangkan, hometown of Misuari's wife Tarhata, is on the western coast of Jolo Island, and the distance as the crow flies from Silangkan to the town of Jolo is about 15 km, through the coastal road is 16 km, and via the town of Parang is 30 km.

The "congress" was held in a bamboo and nipa pavilion which, judging from its still green rafters, had been hastily constructed on a clearing off the main road and could be reached only through a road freshly cut from the slope of a tiny hill, that promptly turned muddy and sticky with the rains that fell on what was supposed to be the first day of the three-day gathering.

But by mid-afternoon, the participants who had waited there since morning, were trekking through the mud, hungry and bored; the women struggling to exercise their heels from the muck as they walked through the drizzle to the main road, after being told that the "congress" had been postponed.

On the second day, however, when the media and a delegation from the Moro Islamic Liberation Front arrived, the pavilion was filled to the rafters. But there was no third day either.

What was there about that "congress" that made it the topic of talk shows and commentaries, and even, in Misuari's own words, threw Malacañang into "panic?"

Call to arms

That it was a "call to war" seemed undeniable from Misuari's pronouncements, made more effective with the presence of a delegation from the MILF.

The presence of the MILF was announced almost as soon as the affair began, and Misuari prefaced the introduction of the six-member delegation with words worthy of Che Guevara.

"Now you are here, our brothers in the MILF, and our fighters in the MNLF, maybe I will not be mistaken if I will say that our forces now number tens of thousands, and I just told media, don't push us against the wall. *Magkakamali kayo* (You will be mistaken). Don't provoke us. Misuari has more forces than ever before, Nur Misuari has better armaments than before," he warned.

But what had been ominously referred to as a "historic" letter from MILF chair Salamat Hashim, turned out to be just the acceptance of Misuari's invitation to the gathering, containing the "credentials" of the delegation, in proper diplomatic language. To their credit, Hashim's representatives refused to say a word, even to media.

Nonetheless it was certainly a media event. Misuari took care to speak in English and Filipino, although its audience—except for his "liaison officer to the United Nations," the MILF delegation and the media—was entirely made up of Tausugs.

Perhaps for the first time ever, he acknowledged the role of media as disseminators of his message, addressing parts of his speech to them, even urging them at the end of the press conference that followed the assembly, to "please make good reports for us."

The congress was adjourned at past noon, but ac-

ording to the emcee, they would resume at 6:30 that evening and hold a "closed door" conference until dawn. What went on behind those closed doors nobody knows, because the media left that same afternoon.

However, a full video of the affair was shown on the local community channel that very day, and the images that Jolo residents watched on their television screens that evening, together with the clips aired by the TV networks the following day, clearly intended the medium and message. And the message, as in fact enunciated by Misuari himself, was: "Don't count this man out."

Striking fear

Armed men in uniform raising their rifles and fists, shouting "Allahu-akbar!" and at one point displaying a howitzer and an RPG (rocket-propelled grenade) rifle, were all intended to strike fear in the hearts of the viewers.

Not that the people of Jolo, both Muslims and Christians, scare easily. Since the MNLF attack on the town in 1974, they have become used to staring death and danger in the face. Through the killings and the kidnappings, the gunfights and the bomb blasts, the burnings and destruction; they have buried and mourned their dead, swept away the charred remains of their homes and businesses and, against all odds, have tried to go on with their lives.

For them, at least those interviewed by this writer, the spectacle in Silangkan generated not so much fear but bitterness and resentment.

The town, they said, had not yet even fully recovered from the devastation, and nothing had been done by the autonomous government to rehabilitate it. Threats issued by Misuari even as the province faced



EMBATTLED Gov. Nur Misuari speaks during an "MNLF congress" in Silangkan, Jolo.

such problems as peace and order, poverty and underdevelopment, demonstrated more than anything else, his kind of "leadership."

Some even threaten to gather lists of those killed, and inventories of properties lost and destroyed in 1974 and file a class suit for "war damages."

There were people who did not take the show seriously; others dismissed it as mere "posturing" on Misuari's part. But the presence of MNLF enclaves scattered in the countryside, each with its own "territory," and all presumably loyal to Misuari.

These enclaves are headed mostly by grizzled MNLF fighters called "district commanders," but are generally composed of younger recruits, some of them grandsons of the commanders and many of them born after the smoke of the MNLF-military battles of the '70s had cleared and are not as ideologically founded as the "original" fighters.

These "districts" are part of what is called the "Regional Internal Security Command," with headquarters in Silangkan, as indicated by a signboard on the façade of the house of Misuari's in-laws.

The members of these forces, who largely made up the audience in the congress, are reportedly those who, for lack of the necessary requirements like educational attainment, could not qualify in the integration program of the armed forces but were allowed to keep their arms as one of the concessions granted to Misuari. In fact, these guns are covered by memorandum receipts bearing his signature.

MNLF camps

These so-called MNLF camps, however, have at various times been irritants in the military operation in the province. While the affected MNLF maintain

that their camps are "recognized" in the peace agreement and are off-limits to the military, the military, for its part, insists that these camps sometimes serve as safe havens for the Abu Sayyaf bandit group.

This charge was borne out by an incident in Talipao in September when soldiers attacked an MNLF camp, killing a known Abu Sayyaf commander, Ustadz Ummal Sahibul. On his body were found identification cards indicating that he was a member of the MNLF and chair of the barangay where the firefight took place.

But Prof. Rudy Rodil, prominent scholar of Mindanao ethnology and member of the government panel in the MNLF-GRP peace talks, told a group of government communicators recently that there was no listing of so-called recognized camps in the agreement, only the designation of MNLF officers with whom the military would coordinate before entering MNLF areas.

In a recent TV talk show when the host, who had inquired about Misuari's status in the MNLF after his ouster in April by the executive council, suggested that until his successor would be duly elected and qualified, he was still ARMM governor, Misuari replied: "That is what the lawyers are saying; if that is the case, why does the government have to hold these (Nov. 26) elections?"

So how do you solve a problem like Misuari?

You don't, because Misuari is not the real problem.

For as long as the marginalized Muslims in this country exist under conditions where they can only find hope for deliverance in self-styled messiahs, and desperation leads to blind faith and gullibility, there will always be a Misuari, or his succeeding clones, beckoning on the horizon.



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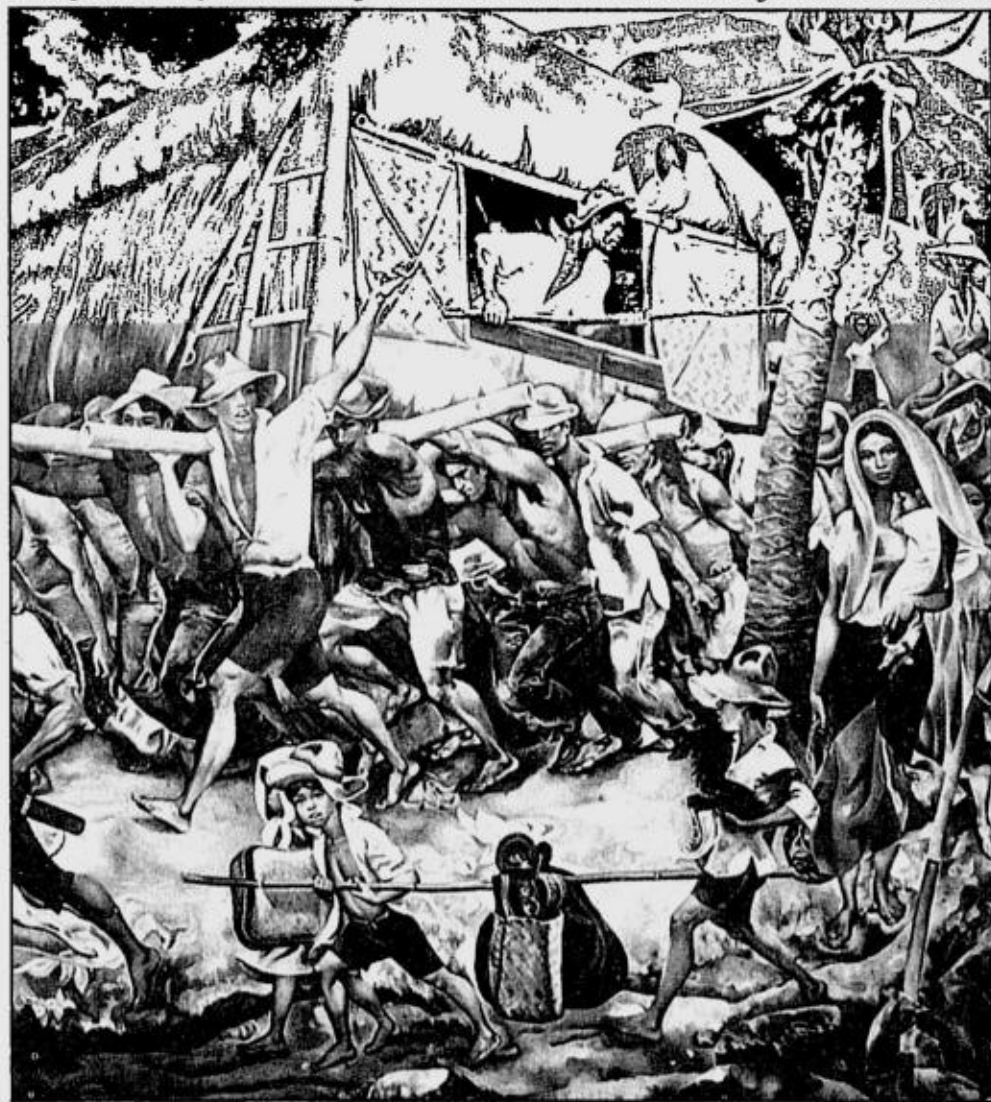
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An original mural by Carlos "Botong" Francisco at the administration building of United Laboratories.



Malaysia arrests Nur Misuari

(From page A1)

A Jolo court has issued an arrest warrant for Misuari in connection with the rebellion that has left four soldiers, seven civilians and at least 113 rebels dead. Thousands have also fled their homes on the island of Jolo after the military launched air strikes on rebel lairs.

Philippine Ambassador to Malaysia Jose Brillantes said he had been informed of the arrests and was awaiting instructions from Manila.

Ms Macapagal's spokesperson, Rigoberto Tiglao, told Agence France Presse that Manila would hold talks with Kuala Lumpur to discuss Misuari's deportation.

Although the Philippines and Malaysia lacked an extradition treaty, the two countries—as well as other members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations—recently agreed to step up cooperation in fighting terrorist groups in their respective areas.

On Saturday, Ms Macapagal declared Misuari a "terrorist" for establishing an alliance with the Abu Sayyaf, a bandit group with alleged ties to Osama bin Laden.

Due process

Malaysian Foreign Minister Syed Hamid Albar said he saw no reason why Misuari should not be sent back to the Philippines "to face due process of law."

"He cannot be running to Malaysia to seek refuge from an internal conflict he got himself into with the Philippine government," Syed Hamid told The Associated Press.

On Friday, Misuari's aide Jamsali Abdulrahman was quoted as saying that the Moro rebel leader would appeal to Mahathir to grant him political asylum.

Senior Philippine military officials said they had received reports that Misuari might have fled to Sabah and possibly try to reach Saudi Arabia.

Mahathir, however, has had



REUTERS

INSPECTOR-GENERAL of Police Norian Mai announces the arrest of fugitive Nur Misuari on Saturday.

enough of Misuari. "This is an internal matter of the Philippines, and Malaysia should not interfere by providing refuge to rebels from other countries," he told Bernama

news agency.

By taking up arms, Misuari in effect repudiated the 1996 peace accord that Malaysia and other Muslim countries had brokered between Manila and the MNLF.

The agreement, which ended the MNLF's 24-year guerrilla war, paved the way for Muslim self-rule in Mindanao. The ARMM was set up and Misuari was appointed governor.

In his talk with Bernama, however, Mahathir criticized Misuari and his MNLF faction for not only waging war but also failing to develop the ARMM.

"Autonomy has been accorded but unfortunately when in power, they did not use their power for the development of the southern Philippine region," he said.

"Instead we find its leaders like Misuari were seldom in southern Philippines. They were more often outside the country or in Manila."

Mahathir added that "not much

had been done for the benefit of the people. So therefore, we no longer feel responsible to provide him any assistance."

Misuari has nowhere to go. The Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs has canceled both his regular and diplomatic passports.

The Philippine National Police has also coordinated with its Asean counterparts "on the arrest of Misuari if ever he is sighted in their countries," PNP Director General Leandro Mendoza said.

Misuari launched his revolt after Ms Macapagal decided to back his MNLF rival, Parouk Hussin, as ARMM governor in the Nov. 26 election.

Hussin heads the 15-man MNLF council that ousted Misuari as MNLF chair earlier this year. Only a fraction of the MNLF's forces seem to have rallied round Misuari.

Ms Macapagal said the election was the "last stage of the implementation of the 1996 peace agreement."

Jolo situation

In Jolo, the military stepped up its hunt for Misuari's armed followers who have fled to the island's hinterlands.

Supt. Ahiron Adjirim, provincial police chief, said rebels were massing in Anuling town near the Talipao stronghold of Abu Sayyaf leader Galib Andang aka Commander Robot.

Adjirim said the rebel forces might try to attack the police headquarters there.

The fighting has prompted about 1,500 families, mostly from the town of Patikul, to flee their homes.

Transport services remain suspended along the "Indanan line"—the road passing through Patikul, Maimbung, Parang, Talipao and Silangan, headquarters of the rebel forces. *Reports from Noralyn Mustafa, PDI Mindanao Bureau; Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau; Dona Z. Pazibugan in Manila; and Inquirer wires*

Taliban resistance in Kunduz collapses

(From page A1)

"Tomorrow morning the handing over process will start. It will last until the afternoon," one Alliance commander, Haji Mohammad Muhaqiq, said.

Muhaqiq said some 700 Afghan Taliban and around 600 foreigners—Arab, Chechen and Pakistani Islamic hardliners—had surrendered, joining 600 Afghans who had laid down their arms since the latest offensive on Kunduz began Thursday.

The claimed numbers of Taliban troops surrendering were initially impossible to verify, but an AFP reporter in Bangi, 25 km east of Kunduz, saw many Taliban fighters arriving in jeeps to turn themselves over.

"There are no more negotiations with the Taliban," General Mohammad Daoud, the leader of a Tajik opposition faction, said outside Khanabad, a strongpoint guarding the approach to Kunduz.

"But the siege of Kunduz is going to continue to allow civilians to leave the city and all militia fighters who so desire to surrender."

Before the start of Thursday's drive, which was backed by fierce US bombardments, there were said to be between 7,000 and 9,000 Taliban, including some 2,000 foreign fighters, in Kunduz.

There have been reports of rivalry between the three rival Northern Alliance factions around the city; Daoud's Tajiks, another mainly Tajik force under Atta Mohammed and the army of Uzbek commander Abdul Rashid Dostum.

But Muhaqiq said that local people would secure the city as the Taliban moved out, and that the three rival warlords had agreed on the plan.

At the other end of the country, in the heartland of Taliban support near the southern border with Pakistan, Pashtun tribal forces scored another key victory, opposition commander Hamid Karzai told AFP.

Kandahar

Taliban forces remain in control of their headquarters city of Kandahar and a large patch of territory around it, despite advances by local Pashtun leaders and attacks on pockets of resistance by US and British commandos.

Karzai, a former deputy foreign minister and close ally of exiled former king Mohammed Zahir Shah, said local tribal militia had attacked the Taliban on Friday around Takhtapul, some 45 km southeast of Kandahar.

"People rose up against the Taliban and liberated the area. The Taliban tried to counter attack and re-take the area but they couldn't," Karzai said via satellite phone from southern Afghanistan.

"A district between Spin Boldak and Kandahar has been liberated and presumably the road from Kandahar to Pakistan has been cut off."

A Taliban spokesperson denied the report, branding it "baseless" according to the Pakistan-based private news agency Afghan Islamic Press (AIP).

A group of Taliban also agreed to surrender in the village of Maidan Shar, 20 km southwest of Kabul and the scene of fighting the last two days, according to a Northern Alliance commander in the area.

There was no independent confirmation of the opposition claims.

A US-led military coalition has backed anti-Taliban forces in overthrowing the regime in a bid to force it to stop protecting Osama bin Laden, an exiled Saudi radical blamed for the Sept. 11 attacks on US cities.

US and British special forces are operating inside Afghanistan to hunt down Bin Laden and his al-Qaida network of Islamic extremists, a mainly Arab force of hardline militants which forms the backbone of many Taliban forces.

Up to 2,000 foreigners—mainly Arabs, Pakistanis and Chechens—are thought to be in Kunduz, according to opposition estimates, and face an uncertain fate if the opposition Northern Alliance takes the city.

Qatar

On Saturday, the Gulf State of Qatar, which has supported the US-led campaign, voiced fears for its nationals who are thought to be trapped in the pocket after volunteering to fight for al-Qaida.

"Qatar has expressed deep concern for the fate of Arabs and other foreigners in Afghanistan, particularly in the town of Kunduz, who risk being mas-

sacred for ethnic reasons, in violation of international law and human rights," a foreign ministry spokesperson told the QNA state news agency.

Pakistan has also expressed concerns about its nationals, amid fears that further "martyrs" to the militant Islamist cause could stir unrest abroad.

The groups who have fought the Taliban are far from united and the international community is struggling to broker a power-sharing deal to form a new government and head off renewed civil war.

The opposition is broadly split on geographic and ethnic lines.

The Northern Alliance is a loose coalition of Tajik, Uzbek, Hazar and other minority factions that has long opposed the Taliban and which last week ousted the militia from the capital Kabul. It controls the north apart from Kunduz.

The alliance has installed the UN-recognised president, Burhanuddin Rabbani, in the capital, but his support base is mainly from his own Tajik faction and there are question marks over the loyalty of his Uzbek and Hazara allies.

South and east of the capital, pockets of Taliban control are facing tribal

militias loyal to Pashtun warlords, some of them working with men like Karzai fighting for a faction under the symbolic leadership of the aging exiled king.

Both groups are due to meet on Tuesday in the former German capital Bonn for a UN-brokered summit amid fears that Rabbani's faction might be reluctant to share power after their victory in Kabul.

Rabbani insisted Saturday in an interview with Britain's Daily Telegraph newspaper that he had "no personal ambitions."

"I will accept the decision of the meeting," he said.

The Northern Alliance has fought shy of international interference in the peace process, opposing British and French plans to send a stabilization force to protect humanitarian aid shipments.

Residents told AFP that dozens of armed British or US troops were living secretly at a house in Kabul, and around 100 British commandos were based at Bagram airbase north of the capital.

But a larger British and French deployment is on hold and in the absence of an international security presence, aid agencies have had difficulty transporting enough food and medicines to the drought-wracked country. *AFP*

Fariñas: Please don't feast on my wife and my family

(From page A1)

she slipped from a porch of the Platinum 2000 building where she lived and fell to her death.

Fariñas had earlier broached this theory, noting that Carlson might have slipped because she was wearing boots at the time. On Friday night he stuck to this theory, and said Carlson had "faked suicides."

The 38-year-old Carlson, Maria Teresa Gerodiaz-Fariñas in real life, was said to have jumped from the 23rd-floor air well of the condominium building in Greenhills, San Juan. She landed on the third floor and was killed on the spot.

Carlson's troubled, unhappy life was widely known. She once left Fariñas and spoke publicly about being a battered wife, but she later retracted her statements and reconciled with him.

'Forgive me'

In the press conference, Fariñas called on the public to pray for the re-

pose of Carlson's soul and on the media to stop "feasting" on his wife and family.

Fariñas insisted that Carlson did not commit suicide and might have slipped.

"She had been doing that," he said. "I had brought her to the provincial hospital several times. She would fake suicides. She played like she was on the verge of suicide."

He recalled his last phone conversation with Carlson on Thursday, when she ostensibly sent him a text message saying: "Daddy, somebody is here. Help me before he kills me. He knows my jewelry, how many rings I have."

Fariñas said he knew Carlson was "paranoid" and immediately called her.

He said that she was then crying, and that he told her to take the trip home. He quoted her as saying that she was tired and wanted to see a doctor first.

On Thursday afternoon, Fariñas said, he had his children call their mother again to ask her to come home.

Then, he said, he received a call at 1:30 a.m. Friday informing him that Carlson had fallen off the 23rd floor and that she was dead.

"I was shocked," Fariñas said. "I gathered all my kids and prayed the rosary. I called my nephew (in Manila) to tell him to go check on her because I was told her body was mangled."

He added: "Finally, Maria is now resting. In the news, I heard again that authorities are insinuating (that there was) foul play. They are all crazy."

"If anybody thinks that there is foul play, you can submit anything. How can foul play (happen)? I was here. I would tell them they're crazy, not Maria. Anybody (who thinks there was foul play) is in a worse condition than my wife (when she was still alive)."

Fariñas said his wife told him last Oct. 30 that her stepfather was making false accusations against him.

Quoting Carlson, Fariñas said: "I had to fight with him and told him you

did not know Rudy. He is the most loving man I know."

History

According to Fariñas, his wife was born in Olongapo City, and did not know her father. He said her mother married a Navy man when Carlson was 2 years old.

Carlson's stepfather brought her to the United States and her mother married another man, Fariñas said.

Carlson's mother and two siblings are scheduled to arrive here today.

"I had been dealing with her like a child. (Her) mother and two sisters know I had been taking it in stride," Fariñas said.

He said he was not blaming his family and relatives if they hated Carlson because "they were just being honest, not hypocrites."

Scandal has hounded the Fariñas clan because of Carlson's public statements on her relationship with her husband.

Fariñas said his brother even asked him why he did not counter Carlson's statements.

"What would I say? That there was something wrong with my wife? It was (too private a) matter for anybody to get involved in," Fariñas said.

He also denied that there was a damaging videotape that his wife wanted to give President Macapagal-Arroyo, who is godmother to one of their children.

"It's not a videotape," he said. "It was a (cassette) tape. Maria put (recording) tapes all around the house and said she had a tape of me making love with a woman. (She would tell me), 'Can you hear it, can you listen to it?'"

Fariñas said Carlson talked with Ms Macapagal at the wedding of Mayor Fariñas' daughter in September, saying that her children were being maltreated and that they were not enrolled in school.

No indication

In a phone interview with the IN-

QUIRER, San Juan chief of police Supt. Rodrigo Degracia said there was still no indication of foul play in the death of Carlson.

"There is no indication that she slipped and fell. There is also no indication that there is foul play," Degracia said.

But he quickly added that they had not concluded their investigation and that he could not say with finality whether or not there was foul play.

"The investigation will take time to complete," he said.

According to statements gathered by his men from some of the building's occupants and security guards, Degracia said that Carlson was "acting strangely" on the day she took her life and might have been suffering a "nervous or mental breakdown."

But he said that according those interviewed, this was considered "normal behavior" in Carlson. *With a report from Alcuin Papa in Manila*

'I may have been the first person she asked for help'

(From page A1)

right hand when we shook hands.

There was, too, a palpable pitch of fear in her voice as she answered my questions while smoking one cigarette after another. She also kept on retouching her make up, furiously dabbing pressed powder on her chin. I thought she was only nervous about talking to a writer again after being away from show business for a while. Her TV show had been canceled in 1987.

"I love my life now and I'm very happy," I remember Carlson saying. She admitted that she missed the entertainment business. Before her show went off the air, she taped for the show once a week, Carlson recalled.

To Manila by bus

She went to her tapings in Manila by bus which the Fariñas family owned. The family also owns vast landholdings in Ilocos Norte and real estate in Manila.

That struck me as odd. This is the celebrity-wife of the governor. A governor whose net worth as of this year was estimated at over P144 million. In Congress, he was named the sixth richest congressman in 1998.

Why wasn't a car made available to a multimillionaire's wife for the long trip to Manila? But that did not seem to bother her.

"I was always accompanied by a bodyguard when I went to Manila to tape for the show. I would tape the whole day and sometimes part of the night. Then we would take the bus for Laoag the following day," she related.

Tapings gave her a chance to see her good friends from show business like Carmi Martin, one of her co-stars in the sitcom. She said this had been her weekly routine until the show was canceled in 1987, and no other offers came her way, even if she had been a hit with TV audiences.

I asked her if she still had plans to jumpstart her stalled career or if she were already contented being a mother and wife.

"I can't ask for more," she said. "But I would like to appear again in the movies. I miss show business. And even if I already have a family, I would still like to work."

Monologue

I had everything I needed for the story and my photographer had finished his last roll of film. But Carlson had not lost steam. She kept talking even if she were just repeating herself. And without missing a beat in her monologue about how happy and how lucky she was to be with Fariñas, she slipped to me the note, which I hid inside my compact after reading it then glancing at Fariñas who was cleaning his gun.

Later, my photographer told me that he tried to take a picture of Fariñas cleaning his gun, but the gun

changed his mind.

Cigarette burns

Fariñas looked like he was not going to budge from where he was seated for as long I was talking to his wife. Still, he left the room for a few minutes, but long enough for Carlson to clutch my arm with both her hands and tell me that he beat her up and even burned her with cigarettes. She leaned closer to show me the cigarette burns on her chin, which she had tried to cover with pressed powder so they wouldn't show in the pictures my photographer was taking.

Housework

She also told me how Fariñas would make her do all the household work even if they had several maids, which was why her hands were rough and why she was late for the interview because she had to finish washing the dishes.

I promised to help her. I was determined to write about her being a battered wife. I also advised her just to

jump on a bus and leave him.

"How could I? He owns the bus," she hissed. Then there was their child, whom she said she could not leave behind with Fariñas.

Later, back in Manila, I realized that I must have been the first person to know that their fairy-tale love story was a sham. I may have been the first person Carlson had asked for help to get her out of hell. I may have been the first person to see and feel her pain.

I was then a desk editor of a newspaper, which the government had sequestered shortly after Edsa I in 1986. I was given an assignment for a feature series on Ilocos and what Marcos country was like two years after the former dictator had fled to Hawaii.

Story unpublished

Unfortunately, I never wrote the story even if I kept Carlson's note for the longest time and showed it to everybody I knew in Manila who I thought could help her.

I did not write the story because the senior editors of the newspaper did not want me to write it. They said Fariñas could sue us for libel. (He sued the paper later, but because of another story that had nothing to do with Carlson.)

The editors also said I had no proof that Fariñas was beating up Carlson even if I had seen the cigarette burns on her face and heard the fear in her voice. They said Fariñas could even kill Carlson—and me.

One editor reminded me that Carlson's problem was a domestic matter between husband and wife. His point was for us outsiders to keep out of it.

In time, I must have convinced myself that not writing the story would be safer for everybody, especially for Carlson, who still had to live with Fariñas had my story come out in the paper.

I also assured myself that Carlson was strong and in love and would survive the travails of her married life.

I was wrong. And I am very sorry.

Rene's logic baffling

(From page A1)

much safer to have the procedure there than here in the Philippines.

Huh? Run that by me again, please. A lawyer of Estrada filed a manifestation with the Sandiganbayan reiterating his client's request to be allowed to have his knee surgery in the United States.

In his manifestation, Rene Saguisag attached a Nov. 24 International Herald Tribune news clipping that reported about three knee surgery deaths that were probably due to some rare and rapid bacterial infection.

Saguisag's logic: If knee surgery "in the land where President Macapagal-

Arroyo just obtained a lot of assistance and which has state-of-the-art equipment and expertise" could be life-threatening, how much more if the procedure were done in the Philippines?

"We could not be more antiseptic in a land where trash could not even be properly collected," Saguisag said.

Make sense yet?

American health experts last week issued an advisory warning doctors in the United States to be on alert for unusual complications in patients who underwent knee or major joint operations. This after three men last week died within four days after undergoing elective knee surgery in Minnesota.

A blood culture from one of them had tested positive for *Clostridium sordelli*, a nonairborne bacteria that can cause septic shock. The source of the infection has not been determined.

The Minnesota health department had requested a week-long halt on elective knee surgery on Nov. 18 following the patients' deaths. The operations are set to resume on Monday after health officials said they were confident that knee patients in the state face no additional infection risk.

Medical investigation into the three deaths, and several others reported across the United States, continues meanwhile. Despite this alarming development,

Saguisag believes Estrada would still be in better hands if he were treated in the United States.

Estrada's lawyers and doctors have been claiming that the special types of metal prostheses and equipment needed for the procedure are not yet available in the country.

But several Philippine doctors insist that the procedure can be done safely by experts in the country.

According to Dr. Jojo Carabeo of Plunder Watch, diagnostic arthroscopy and even knee-joint replacement are being done successfully at the government-run Philippine Orthopedic Hospital.

He added that a US-based orthope-

dic surgeon had set up the Philippine Orthopedic Institute, which produces its own knee and other joint prostheses in Laguna.

"If Estrada goes to the US, the money he will spend will be equal to the annual budget of the Philippine Orthopedic Hospital," Carabeo said.

Plunder Watch also assailed as "overboard" Estrada's motion for a three-day leave for cataract-extraction surgery at the Asian Eye Institute at the Rockwell Center, Makati City.

Citing statements by physicians' groups Code Red for Good Governance (Code Red) and Health Alliance for Democracy, Plunder Watch said that

cataract-extraction had become a regular out-patient operation in the Philippine General Hospital and other government hospitals. The operation lasts a mere 30 minutes to one hour.

Estrada wants to have his initial eye checkup on Nov. 29.

Carabeo said Estrada's three-day leave request should be rejected and he suggested that "Estrada would do the nation a favor by having the cataract-extraction operation on any day when he is not supposed to attend the Sandiganbayan trials."

"The medical ploy is an insult to excellent Filipino doctors," said Carabeo. *With a report from Reuters*

La Salle golfers 'falter,' but win PJGDA crown

THE LA SALLE Greenhills bet carded their worst effort of 132 points at Canlubang yesterday but this was enough to give them the High School division crown in the 2001 Milo-PJGDA Inter-Schools tournament.

Ateneo de Manila closed out with 124 on Judson Bustaquio's 48, the 43 of James Yu and the 33 of either Ayon Sanchez and Arnado Eustaquio to run away with the Grade School division trophy with 384.

Kevin Lachica, Ron Onglengeo and Martin Mediana all scored 44 points each for Greenhills. Patrick Dee made 36 but this did not count since the format is four to play and three to count.

Together with 146 at Club Intramuros and 153 at the Philippine Navy Golf Club, the La Salle campaigners from Greenhills wound up with 431 to beat Colegio San Agustin in the High School team event.

San Agustin scored a final round 126 to go with its earlier rounds of 117 and 140 to settle for second place at 383. La Salle Zobel made 112 for 333 to finish second in the Grade School class.

Miriam College captured the girls' division championship.

The tournament was sponsored by Milo and conducted by the Philippine Junior Golf Development Association in coordination with the Philippine Junior Golf Federation, both headed by Edgardo "Boy" Cantada.

Inquirer eds run away with SMB golf plums

FOUR editors from the Philippine Daily Inquirer shared top honors in the 1st San Miguel Media Invitational Golf Tournament held recently.

More than 40 media practitioners from 10 publications and seven radio-TV stations participated in the fellowship competition co-sponsored by Wack Wack Golf and Country Club.

The event was also graced by Metro Manila Development Authority Chairman Benjamin Abalos, who was the guest of honor, and Isabela Gov. Faustino Dy Jr. and Rep. Gibert Teodoro of Tarlac as special guests.

INQUIRER news editor Jun Engracia toured the Wack Wack west course layout with a net 72 to emerge as the Class A champion in the Business/News "Ace Hunters" Division.

The first runner-up trophy went to INQUIRER business editor Raul Marcelo who prevailed over second runner-up Bing Jaleco based on handicap. Both had an identical net 76.

Corrie Narisma, INQUIRER assistant business editor, scored a net 75 to top Ace Hunters' Class C of the tourney spiced up with a raffle and gift items from San Miguel Beer, Red Horse, Viva! Mineral Water, B-Meg, Magnolia Chicken, CampoCarne, Magnolia Quickmelt, Star Margarine, Pure Foods-Hormel and Ray-Ban. Nilo Paurom, Inquirer assistant news editor, had a net 76, to cop the first runner-up trophy in the same category. Aris Ilagan of Manila Bulletin turned in a 78 for second runner-up honors.

In the Sports "Parabusters" category, The Philippine Star sports editor Lito Tacujan, who turned in a net 71 among entries from the sports media, copped the overall and Class A championship trophy.

Parabusters' Class A first runner-up honors went to Ernie Gonzales (73) of The Manila Meteor, while Manila Bulletin sports editor Ding Marcelo (74) holed out as second runner-up.

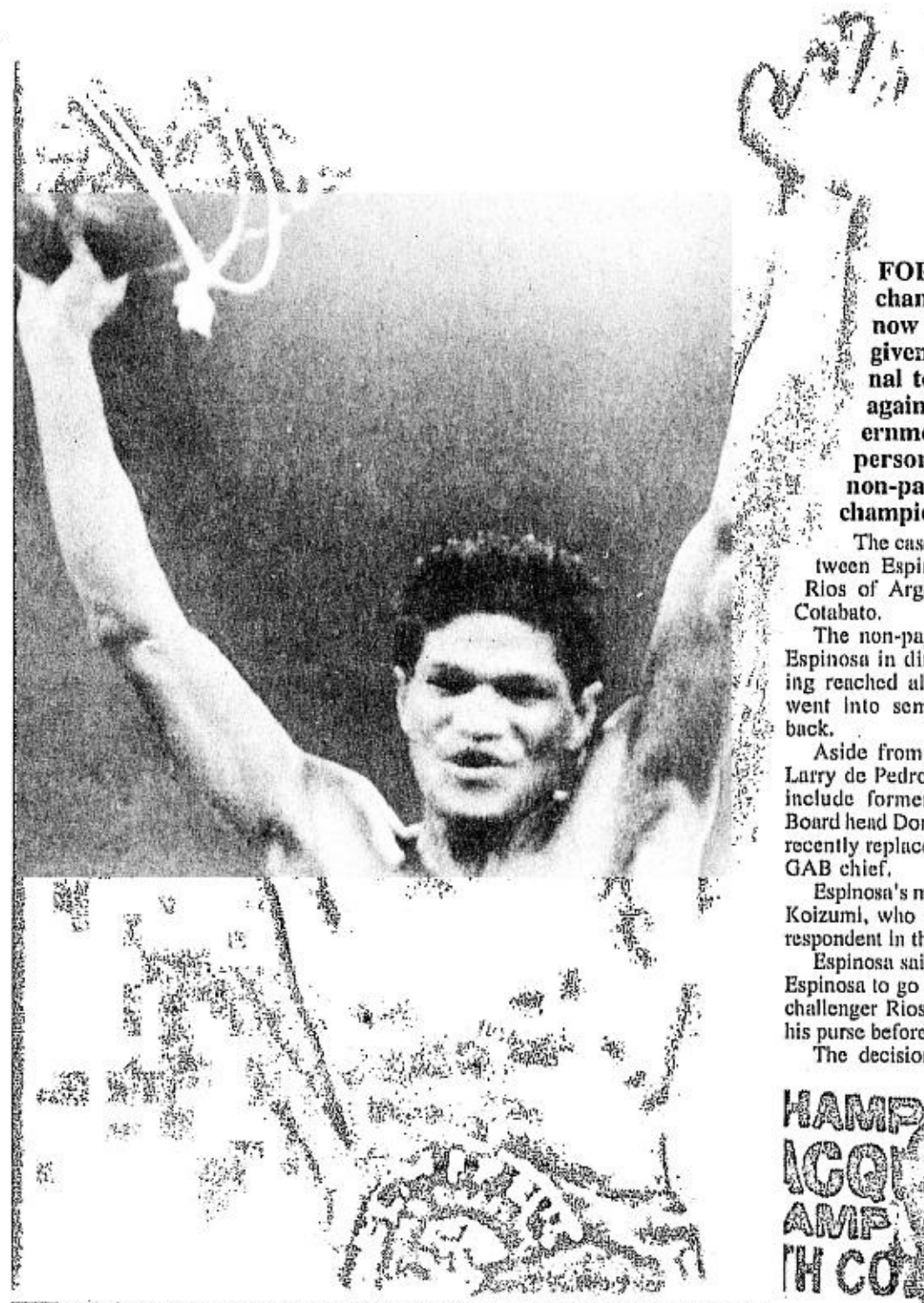
The Manila Times sports editor Philip Evardone (75) topped the Parabusters' in Class B. In the same division, Bulletin's Dodo Catacutan (76), and People's Journal's Musong Castillo (79) were first and second runners-up, respectively.

'Power' features PAL tiff

GOLF Power today presents the final half of a golf special featuring the highlights of the 9th Philippine Airlines Mabuhay Club Invitational Golf Tournament held recently at the Ino Aoki and Nick Faldo courses of the Engleridge Golf and Country Club in Trece Martires, Cavite. The annual golf invitational was limited to members of Philippine Airlines' Mabuhay Club and are frequent flyers on the nation's flag carrier. Golf Power, now on its sixth year, is aired every Sunday, 3 p.m. on IBC-13, and is hosted by golf professional Gerard Cantada. The weekly golf program is produced by Joe Cantada Sports.

Espinosa expands purse case

Ex-boxing idol also tags Cepeda in new charge sheet



FORMER world boxing champion Luisito Espinosa, now based in America, has given his lawyers the go-signal to file an expanded case against former Filipino government officials and other persons responsible for the non-payment of his \$150,000 championship purse in 1997.

The case stemmed from the fight between Espinosa and challenger Carlos Rios of Argentina in Koronadal, South Cotabato.

The non-payment of his purse has put Espinosa in dire straits, his finances having reached almost rock-bottom since he went into semi-retirement some months back.

Aside from South Cotabato governor Larry de Pedro, the new charge sheet will include former Games and Amusements Board head Dominador Cepeda. Cepeda was recently replaced by Eduardo Villanueva as GAB chief.

Espinosa's manager then was Japanese Joe Koizumi, who was also being considered a respondent in the new case.

Espinosa said it was Cepeda who pushed Espinosa to go on with his title bout against challenger Rios despite the non-payment of his purse before the fight.

The decision to push through with the

fight despite the non-payment of the \$150,000 purse was against the ruling of the World Boxing Council, which supervised the fight.

"As head of GAB, the local body tasked to supervise the championship, it was Cepeda's duty to see to it that purses were settled during the weigh-in proper," said Emmanuel Rivera, Espinosa's new handler who is based in San Francisco, California.

"Cepeda did not only fail in his duty, he also figured in a gross violation by coaxing Espinosa to fight despite the uncompleted payments."

Espinosa retained his WBC featherweight title by stopping Rios.

Espinosa had appealed to President Gloria Arroyo for help after an original charge he filed against De Pedro and other parties failed to prosper in the courts.

The appeal pends.

Espinosa has, time and again, expressed his deep frustration over the non-payment of his purse and accused the boxing promoters of "shortchanging me."

Now living in San Francisco with his wife and two kids, Espinosa has been forced to accept odd jobs. Recently, he was an assistant bartender in order to keep both ends meet.

The 35-year-old Espinosa has been in deep training for a comeback fight scheduled in San Francisco in January.

Duran classic fight vs Leonard on '9

WHEN Muhammad Ali retired in 1981, Sugar Ray Leonard, a fighter with speed, ability and charisma filled the void. Named "Fighter of the Decade" for the 1980s, Leonard was a ring craftsman who found a way to beat stylists, sluggers and brawlers.

After winning the WBC welterweight title by stopping Wilfred Benitez and making one successful defense, Leonard faces legendary lightweight champion Roberto Duran in the most anticipated non-heavyweight fight in history in "The Brawl in Montreal" at the Olympic Stadium in Canada where four years earlier Leonard won a gold medal in boxing.

The classic battle between Leonard who landed whipping, eye-catching combinations and Duran who slammed, slugged and charged in, is featured in San Miguel Beer's "Greatest Fights" today at 1 p.m. over RPN 9.



ESPINOSA (top) during his reign as the world's king of the featherweight division. Lower photo (from left to right) are Emmanuel Rivera, Espinosa and WBC president Jose Sulaiman. At right is Rios, Espinosa's knockout victim in the infamous fight in Koronadal, South Cotabato.



Rotary tilt stakes 2 Benzes at Tagaytay

TWO luxurious Mercedes Benz cars are at stake for a hole-in-one feat in the 3rd President's Golf Classic, a fund-raising project of Rotary Club of Bagumbayan-Manila, set for Tuesday, Dec. 4, at the challenging Tagaytay Midlands course.

With the front and back nines of Midlands having a million-peso Benz each for an ace on a designated hole, more than 200 Rotarians and guests have already registered for the tourney which is touted to become the biggest in the Tagaytay area this year.

The event's teeming sponsorship roster includes Futura window decors, Capitol Stationery, Freego,

Staff Line, Copacabana Powertrade, MGME-Pioneer Electronics, I-Cars.com sales and rental, Water Tradition, Primal Enterprises, Virgen Shipping, Corp. Willy Toilet Partition, Columbia Fruit Trader, A J&J cargo, Steel Center Phils., Osram Lamps, Kock Orion water pipe system and Benzell Enterprises.

Rtn. Ricky Uy, president of Rotary Club-Bagumbayan, announced that there will be prizes for both the individual and team competitions of the tourney which he said helps them get the funds for their various projects like feeding centers, child abuse centers and community

projects.

Uy is together with tournament chair Philip Chen and past president/founder Albert Que in the organization of the annual event which comes on the heels of the club's 22nd anniversary celebration.

Participants vie for the many prizes up for grabs in Classes A, B, C and D in three divisions: Rotarians, guests and sponsors and ladies. The exciting team event will have a five-to-play, four-to-count format.

Entry fee is P2,000 inclusive of green fees, mulligans, meals and raffle.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1996, Paeng Nepomuceno beat American Drew Hylen, 243-172, to win his fourth World Cup crown at the Dundonald International Ice Bowl in Castlereagh, Northern Ireland.



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Deadline for submission of entries:
December 1, 2001

REGISTRATION FEES

10-K Run	P 75.00
5-K Fun Run	P 50.00
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Woods 'Skins' entry

INDIO, California—Fresh from a victory at the Grand Slam of Golf, Tiger Woods goes after another lucrative postseason prize when he competes this weekend in the revamped Skins Game. A purse of 1 million dollars will be at stake when Woods tees off with defending champion Colin Montgomerie of Scotland, Jesper Parnevik of Sweden and Australia's Greg Norman on Saturday.

AP

Sunday SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

Burns nears Rally title

SWANSEA, Wales—Richard Burns moved closer to his first World Rally season title after fellow title contenders Tommi Makinen and Colin McRae both crashed on Friday in the season-ending Rally of Britain. Burns, who needs to finish in the top four when the rally ends Sunday to guarantee the title and become the first English season champion, was in second place on Friday in his Subaru - 36.6 seconds behind defending season champion Marcus Gronholm.

SHORTER 3-PT SHOT

PBA: Fiba rules for Asiad 5

BY JUNE NAVARRO

THE ASIAN Games-bound national team will have to go back to the fundamentals of amateur basketball if it wishes to bring home the gold in Pusan, South Korea, next year.

For two conferences in 2002, the PBA will adopt some of the International Basketball Federation (Fiba) rules to simulate the competition where the PBA-backed national squad will see action.

PBA executive director Sonny Barrios said the 10-minute per quarter, 8-second mid-court time limit and the zone defense would be put in effect in the season-opening Commissioner's Cup and mid-season Governor's Cup.

He added the three-point arc would also be shortened from 22 feet to 19.9 ft to conform with Fiba rules depending on the decision of the coach, who is expected to be named by the PBA early this week.

"It actually depends on what the coaching staff feels better. If they want a shorter three-point arc, then it's their decision. But personally a longer one is far better," said Barrios.

These proposals form part of the PBA calendar of events next year drawn by the Commissioner's Office. It will be submitted to the Board of Governors tomorrow for approval.

"By history, the Board of Governors always approves the proposal of the Commissioner's Office with only a few revisions," said Barrios.

The Commissioner's Cup will start on Feb. 10 and run up to May 31 before the week-long PBA All-Star break beginning on June 9.

Barrios said the national quintet would be pitted against a selection of imports or Asian Basketball Confederation (ABC) stars during the All-Star break.

The Governor's Cup will then touch off on June 16 and end on Sept. 15. By that time, the composition of the national team has already been finalized.

SMB, Pop try to win number 2

GAMES TODAY (Araneta Coliseum)
4:05 p.m.—San Miguel vs Shell
6:10 p.m.—Pop Cola vs Sta. Lucia

AFTER escaping semifinal cliffhangers the other day, San Miguel Beer and Pop Cola try to nail down another victory today and inch closer to a dream Finals battle in the season-ending PBA Governors Cup.

The Beermen aim to duplicate an 89-84 beating it scored against the Shell Turbo Chargers at 4:05 p.m. while the Panthers will have a similar mission against Sta. Lucia Realty later in the night at the Araneta Coliseum.

Minus ace playmaker Johnny Abarrientos, the Panthers nipped the Realtors, 76-75, to also gain a 1-0 margin in their best-of-five semifinal affair.

Abarrientos is slowly recuperating from a knee injury the 1996 MVP awardee had absorbed near the end of the eliminations.

"As long as we win, we can prevent rushing and pushing Johnny back to action," said Pop Cola coach Chot Reyes.

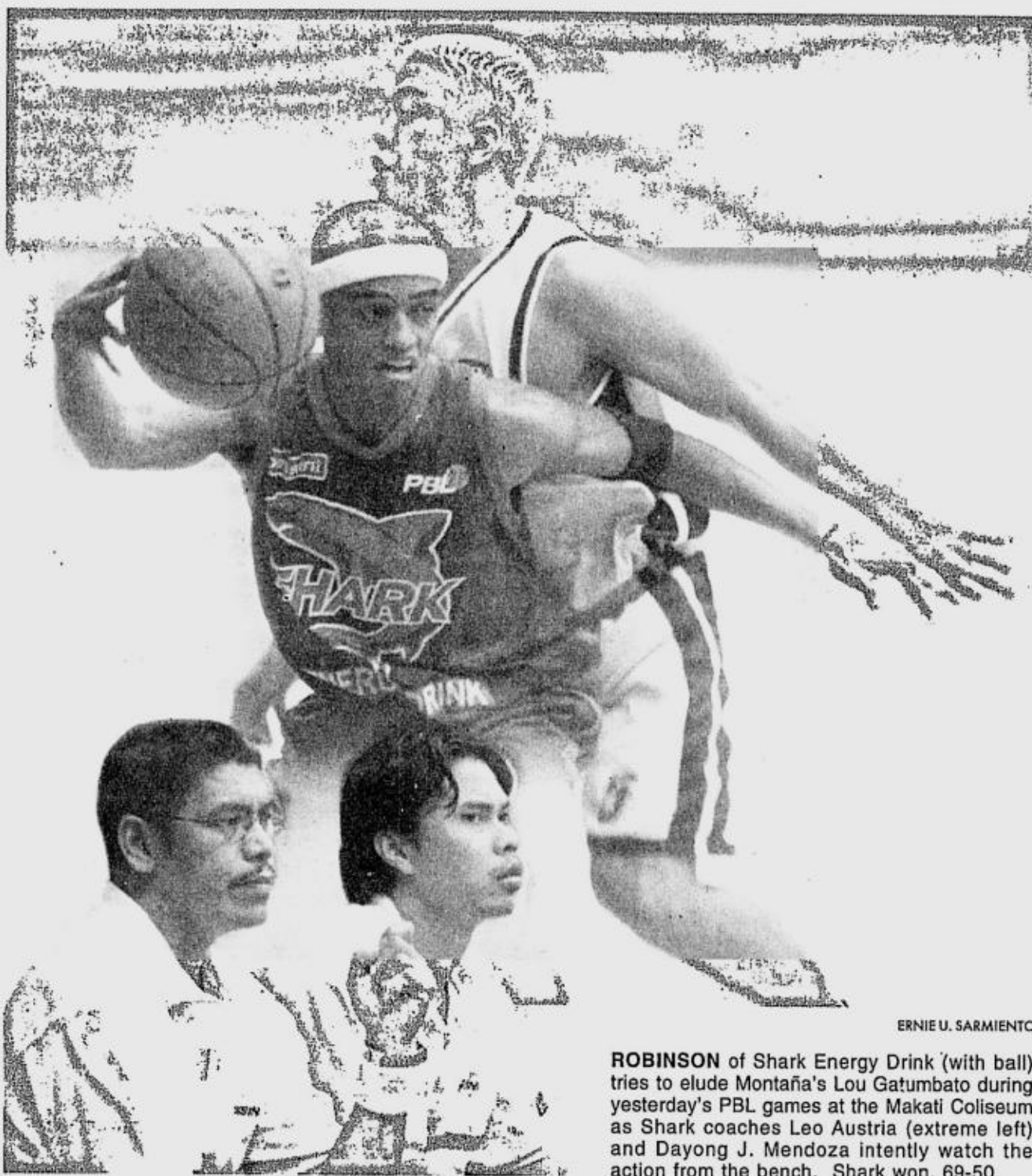
And the art of winning against a taller and heavier opponent like Sta. Lucia, according to Reyes, is to play a mean but versatile defense.

The Panthers displayed the needed resiliency against their foes by effectively putting the handcuffs on Damien Owens, Marlou Aquino and Dennis Espino at crunch time.

It also marked the Panthers' only second victory in 13 games against the Realtors since 1999.

"Against Sta. Lucia, we must shoot well from the perimeter. If not, we ought to put premium on defense. We did it last Friday. We'll do it again tonight," said Reyes.

The Beermen reactivated the explosive Danny Seigle from the injury list, leaving the Turbo Chargers dumbfounded as far as matchup was concerned.



ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

ROBINSON of Shark Energy Drink (with ball) tries to elude Montaña's Lou Gatumbato during yesterday's PBL games at the Makati Coliseum as Shark coaches Leo Austria (extreme left) and Dayong J. Mendoza intently watch the action from the bench. Shark won, 69-50.

It's Shark by 19; Ateneo prevails

STANDINGS	W	L	GAMES TUESDAY
Blu	4	1	(Makati Coliseum)
Welcoat	3	1	3:30 p.m.—
ICTSI	3	1	Montaña vs Ana
Shark	3	2	5:30 p.m.—Shark
Kutitap	3	3	vs Welcoat
Ana	2	4	
Ateneo	1	3	
Montaña	1	5	

BY DENNIS U. EROA

DEFENDING champion Shark Energy Drink used a crippling third quarter assault to beat skidding Montaña Jewels, 69-50, even as Ateneo-Pioneer posted avengeful 66-49 win over ICTSI Archers in the PBL Challenge Cup last night at the Makati Coliseum.

High-leaping Chester Tolomia poured in 11 of his game-high 27 points as the Energy Drink Kings broke the game wide open in the third quarter, 56-37.

By registering its first back-to-back win this conference, Shark gained solo

third with a 3-2 card, while dropping the Jewels to 1-5.

"I'm still looking for the old Shark team. It will come as the tournament gets older," said Shark coach Leo Austria.

The Jewels were in the thick of the fight only in the first quarter as Mark Macapagal exploded with 11 points, giving Montaña the lead, 17-15.

Ateneo-Pioneer followed Shark's example in the second game. Displaying intensity, the Insurers snapped a three-game losing skid.

ICTSI, which fared miserably from the floor (16 of 56) and committed 27 turnovers, dropped to a tie with Welcoat Paints with 3-1 cards.

Edrick Ferrer, Enrico Villanueva, Billy Mamaril, Rich Alvarez and Magnum Membrere spewed fire all over against the sluggish Archers.

Scores: SHARK 69—Tolomia 27, Malabanan 8,

Ybañez 8, Castro 5, Sotto 4, Cole 4, Rodriguez 4, Basilides 3, Garcia 2, Ortega 2, Robinson 2, Caceres 0, Balares 0, Limare 0.

MONTAÑA 50—Macapagal 15, Lao 7, Gottenbos 6, David 6, Gatumbato 6, Dimaunahan 5, Alfad 2, Zamora 2, Misola 1, Torrente 0, Latoreno 0, Lim 0.

Quarters: 15-17, 33-30, 56-37, 69-50 (Second Game)

ATENEOPIONEER 66—Ferrer 13, Avenido 12, Villanueva 12, Membrere 8, Fonacier 7, Mamaril 6, Sison 6, Alvarez 2, Bugla 0, Noble 0.

ICTSI ARCHERS 49—Uy 12, Castro 8, Yap 8, Cortez 7, Omolon 7, Wilson 3, Magsombol 2, Cuan 2, Franco 0, Ramos 0, Cabayan 0.

Quarters: 14-12, 37-25, 46-33, 66-49

NBA RESULTS

Philadelphia 79, Cleveland 68; Toronto 91, Boston 89; Atlanta 106, Detroit 99; Dallas 104, Miami 94; Orlando 109, Charlotte 99; Phoenix 103, Memphis 89; San Antonio 97, Indiana 79; Utah 106, L.A. Clippers 101; Seattle 99, Houston 81; Portland 97, Denver 90; L.A. Lakers 106, Golden State 90.

Interesting fight up in Fil-Am golf

IT'S still a week away but already, talks are rife that Manila Southwoods will be strongly challenged by a newcomer in the Fil-Am Golf Championship in Baguio City from Dec. 3 to Dec. 9 at the Baguio Country Club and Camp John Hay courses. The defending champion Southwoods has Mizuno-DHL as its chief opponent for one of the nation's most coveted golf crowns.

"We formed what we believe is a strong team so that the much-revered Fil-Am will have a truly interesting, if not thrilling, battle for the championship," officials of Mizuno-DHL told me yesterday. "Without a fighting team to challenge them, Southwoods will surely run away with the title this year. We formed a fighting team for the good of the Fil-Am in particular and for Philippine golf in general."

I like that line. For, indeed, what good will the Fil-Am be if one team will dominate it?

Last year, Southwoods had a strong challenger in Calatagan, whose players headed by the eminent Tommy Manotoc had the nucleus of powerhouse Canlubang. But due to an unfortunate incident triggered by a gory oversight in which crucial scores had been improperly communicated to persons concerned, Calatagan lost what concededly was a won crown to Southwoods. So devastated was Manotoc that before he left Baguio, he swore he wouldn't "play again" in the Fil-Am.

Before the move by Mizuno-DHL, everybody thought Southwoods would simply transform this year's Fil-Am into its own playground.

The Mizuno-DHL team in the Fil Division is composed of Tibor Marcelino, Jun Jun Grandeza, Jojo Fernando, Gene Bondoc and former national standout Emilio Tuason. Its Am Division players are Jimmy Feliciano, Marvin Dumandan, Mar Labajo, Roy Decendario and former Uratex champion Jay Bayron.

Southwoods is still favored to win as it has in its fold some of the nation's brightest amateurs today. "Our intention is merely to give them a good

SPECTATOR

AL S. Mendoza

fight," said Lovell Gopez of Mizuno. "If we have the luck to win it, that'd be a bonus." Well said, Lovell.

The "Media Dream" is all about the main prize of the 75th Unilever Barkada Golf next year, said Unilever's Chito Macapagal. Chito wants the tournament held in January and strong candidates for the event's venue are Wack Wack, Sta. Elena, Intramuros and Riviera.

Howard Belton, Unilever's Chairman/CEO, is thinking hard on how to come up with a hole-in-one prize that should aptly identify with Unilever's 75th founding.

How about P7.5 million as a hole-in-one prize? And P75,000 as the top raffle prize?

The winner of any of that would constitute Chito's "Media Dream" prize for the occasion.

Thus, I'll make you a deal, Chito. If I win the P7.5 million, I will disqualify myself in the raffle proceedings.

Call?

The Splendido Golf and Country Club in Tagaytay will be inaugurated today. Designed by Greg Norman, the course boasts of state-of-the-art facilities.

Cheers to Joseph Datu and his Gang of Greats as they play host to a select cast of golf aficionados today.

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

BASKETBALL: NBA

Inside Stuff at 6:30 a.m.

(r) on Star Sports

US NCAA - Great

Alaska Shootout, Cham-

pionship at 1 p.m., 2001

Coaches vs Cancer Clas-

sic Women's at 4 p.m. (r),

UNLV Runnin' Rebels vs

Cincinnati Bearcats at 6

p.m. (r) on ESPN

NBA - Phoenix Suns

vs Dallas Mavericks at 9

p.m. on NBN 4

This Week in the NBA

tomorrow at 12:30 a.m. on

CNN

MOTOR SPORTS:

2001 Formula One High-

lights Season Review at

8 p.m. on Star Sports

GOLF: BMW Asian

Open Golf 2001, Day

Three at 7 a.m. (r), Day

Four at 1 p.m. on Star

Sports

GolfGlobe 2001 at 7

p.m. on Star Sports

US Open - 1988 Offi-

cial Film at 8 p.m. (r) on

ESPN

The Straits Cup 2001,

Day Three Highlights at 9

p.m. on Star Sports

ICE SKATING:

Starskates Ice Jam 2000

at 9 p.m. on ESPN

BASEBALL:

Classic's Baseball Game

- LA Dodgers vs San Di-

ego Padres at 7 a.m. (r) on

ESPN

Schedules subject to

change without prior no-

tice.

Luat, Kiamco join Bata

EPREN "Bata" Reyes was joined yesterday by Rodolfo Luat and Warren Kiamco in the knockout round of 32 in the 34th All Japan Championship in Amagasaki City.

The three Filipinos remained unbeaten after three matches to advance to the crucial stage of the competition with a top prize of \$15,000.

Two other Filipinos, Francisco "Django" Bustamante and Antonio Lining were battling it out to try and make the round of 32 after dropping one of their first two matches.

However, they fought back to win a crucial second match in the loser's bracket and need to win one more match today to send five Filipinos into contention.

Sketchy reports from Japan said Reyes, Luat and Kiamco all played well to defeat Japanese opponents but the tough part begins today.

Among the outstanding pool players competing in the tournament are World Pool Champion Mika Immonen and five-time world champion Earl Strickland.



TOUR CHAMPS

Sta. Lucia Realty president Exequiel Robles (second from left) and RedBank Realty officials Madeline Dizon-Marfori and Philip Dizon join members of the Orchard D team, which posted its third consecutive victory in the Sta. Lucia Tour recently at the Rancho Palos Verdes course in Davao. From right to left are Dan Salvador III, Rudel Panganiban, Paul Salvador and Jojo Castaneda. The Tour resumes on Dec. 6-8 at the Eagle Ridge Golf Club in Gen. Trias, Cavite.

\$15,000 TOURNEY Sabandon trips Iranian in Tru-flex netfest

LA SALLE bets Pop Sabandon and Johan Guba scored contrasting victories yesterday to reach the second round qualifying of the US\$15,000 Tru-flex/ITF Philippines Men's Futures 1 at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

Sabandon survived Iranian Shahab Hassani Nafez, 7-5, 7-5, to advance against top seed Korean Kim Dong-Hyun.

Guba, on the other hand, stamped his class over La Salle-Zobel's Chase Tinio, 6-3, 6-2 to forge a second-round duel with No. 8 Febi Widyanto of Indonesia.

Earlier, Dino Ferrari downed Carlo Manalastas, 6-2, 6-2 to advance against fifth seed Indon Peter Handoyo while Luisito Flores demolished Olongapo City's Nico Riego de Dios, 6-1, 6-0 to advance against No. 10 Attapol Rithiwattanapong.

Fil-American John Joseph Stewart and Ronald Paz also secured second-round slots in this event

supported by the ITF Grand Slam Development Fund, PSC, Viva Mineral Water, Manila Midtown Hotel and official ball Wilson.

Stewart struggled past Olongapo City's Patrick John Tierro, 7-6 (5), 6-7 (2), 6-3 to advance against third seed Briton Maximilian Abel while Paz outplayed Mario Sabas, 6-4, 6-0 to advance against No. 12 Slovak Roman Kukal.

Other first-round winners were Taiwanese Tsai Chia Yen over local Raymundo Lopez, 6-0, 6-2; Japanese Atsufumi Yoshikawa over Indian Knushik Sridhar, 6-3, 6-1; Iranian Akbar Taheri over compatriot Anoosha Shahgholi, 7-5, 6-1; and Korean Lee Dae-Dong over Iranian Ashkan Shokofi, 6-3, 6-0.

Meanwhile, there will be a photo contest during the tournament with the first prize winner getting P5,000 and the editor P2,000. Other prizes are P3,500 and P1,500 (second) and P2,000 and P1,000 (third).

Go to question Jalasco during POC assembly A lot of nonsense, says Dayrit

BY MARC ANTHONY REYES

ATHLETICS chief Go Teng Kok has asked the Philippine Olympic Committee to include three controversial issues in the POC main agenda when its general assembly convenes on Wednesday at the Philippine Columbian Association.



GOTENG KOK

Go said he asked POC secretary general Romy Ribaño to include in the discussion the status of executive board member Freddie Jalasco, who no longer has a national sports association to represent, and the raging leadership issues in the cycling and weightlifting associations.

But while Ribaño didn't object to the inclusion of the issues, they are expected to heat things up in the noon meeting, especially since Go challenged POC president Celso Dayrit to tackle these problems once and for all.

Go earlier told Dayrit "to shape up" and do something about the leadership squabbles in at least five NSAs.

"The funny thing is that both contending parties of these NSAs come to me," Go said. "They said they are fed up with the POC's magic finger which decides who will be upheld during arbitration



DAYRIT

cases."

But Dayrit has accepted the dare and instead asked Go to bring everything up to the general assembly.

"For all we know, he doesn't have anything to prove his claim," said Dayrit. "He keeps on coming up with a lot of nonsense."

However, Go said he is ready with documents to support his claims, saying he would cite "specific incidents" where the POC had allegedly mis-handled NSAs cases.

Go pointed out that the POC "burned itself" when it presumed that Mayor Ramonito Durano III accepted POC's offer to be cycling's chair. Durano answered with a strongly worded statement denying such, and even called the POC "presumptuous and irresponsible."

The athletics chief also said he has papers "showing the irregularities" done by POC-recognized NSA presidents like Ponciano Regalado (cycling) and Rodolfo Siat (weightlifting).

But said Dayrit: "We are elected officials of the POC and we have a job to do, why don't you tell him (Go) to file a complaint and bring everything up in the general assembly."

Memorable

THE RECENT 6th San Miguel Beer-Marho Breeders' Cup will be remembered for a lot of things.

Wind Blown set a record, sales soared and action in the six major races thrilled fans no end.

Let me congratulate Marho's Putch Puyat I (president) and Sandy Javier (chair) for spearheading another classic that would surely stand out again as one of the year's most memorable racing festivals.

Wind Blown's rip roaring triumph in the Classic proved a fitting climax to the five-day racefest. Hermie Esguerra's imposing colt which Javier himself bred timed a scorching 2:12.4 in the 2,050-meter Classic where last year's winner Golden Edition could only land second, many, many lengths away.

At the end of last Sunday's program, a jaw-dropping P141,008,370 in sales for the five-day racing binge which started Nov. 14 was recorded.

"Salamat sa lahat ng sumuporta sa Breeders' Cup. This won't be a big success without your help," said a beaming Puyat, referring to the racing fans and sponsors San Miguel Corp., Philracom, PCSO, Pagcor and Sta. Lucia Realty.

Golden Ballet's victory in the Juvenile Fillies gave fans a glimpse of more excitement to come in the next five majors.

Jun Almeda's filly handily prevailed, making her a hot favorite in the coming Juvenile Championship.

Javier scored it big in the Juvenile Colts when River Bee shocked Bidang Bida and Baccarat in wire-to-wire style, while Be Quiet took the Sprint title by humbling Hazmoore.

The next half of the Cup was equally thrilling. Myther Bunag's Ilocandia Slew edged John Mendoza's I Love You in the Three-Year-Old Distaff Mile.

ONE WINNER

Edwin Villanueva



Buñag's choice for premiere jockey Jesus Guce as replacement for J.B. Hernandez worked wonders, but Myther's friends said it was his wife Susan who brought luck to the "Slew."

In the Three-Year-Old Colt, Batangas Entry came under heavy pressure from Staunch Ally right from the start, giving Lyonnais a big leeway to mount a rally in the stretch and eventually rule the race.

Puyat himself shared honors with Lyonnais' win, being the breeder of the Lord Santos-handled galloper.

Although Batangas Entry lost, "General" Rudy Mendoza still had reason to celebrate because Terrific, also owned by son John, won as a longshot in a PCSO-Marho Handicap event five races later.

In the Classic, Wind Blown merely "jogged" his way in routing four other rivals.

"Sa Presidential Gold Cup na namin siya ihahanda," declared Esguerra, who also made the 6th Breeders' Cup memorable by putting up a unique contest involving 12 of his noted gallopers.

Let's all raise a glass again to Marho!

Incidentally, Puyat and Javier currently lead the list of the country's top breeders. More on this next week.

RACING TIPS

AT SAN LAZARO BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Fountain of Gold 2. Free Rein 3. Rule By Right/Mine Alone
Race 2—1. Corporate Law 2. Dragon Doding 3. Golden Child
Race 3—1. La Signorina 2. Doctor Steve
Race 4—1. Magic Fingers/Sky Wind 2. Pacific Dancer 3. Double Header 4. Arnee's Hope 5. Boss Lino
Race 5—1. Magnifico 2. Hearts on Fire/Come in Glory 3. Triggerman 4. Don't Worry 5. Oh Diva
Race 6—1. Secret Quest 2. Gold and Dollar 3. Hurry Prince
Race 7—1. Super Sharp 2. Golden Eagle 3. Charlemagne

Race 8—1. Carlo's Charm 2. Timber Nectar 3. Pinagpala 4. Hinobaan's Pride
Race 9—1. Our Hope 2. Irish Star 3. Absolute Power 4. Radiance 5. Dampi
Race 10—1. Heavenly 2. Love and Kisses 3. Mark's Treasure 4. Aurora Borealis 5. Exchange Deal
Race 11—1. Ohayo Gozalmes 2. Super Dancer/Defense Minister 3. Premiere Stock
Race 12—1. Cardinal Rule 2. Jhelen 3. Happy Return 4. Vice on Ice 5. Black and White
Race 13—1. Point of Interest 2. Fair Ringer 3. Front Page 4. Ocean Dignity 5. Party Princess 6. Perry's Will

Negros, Don Bosco booters draw

BACOLOD CITY—Reigning national champion Negros Oriental High School rallied to salvage a 2-2 draw against host Don Bosco Technical Institute Friday at the start of the Visayas Coke Go-for-Goal under 16 football finals at the rain-drenched Paglaur Sports Complex here.

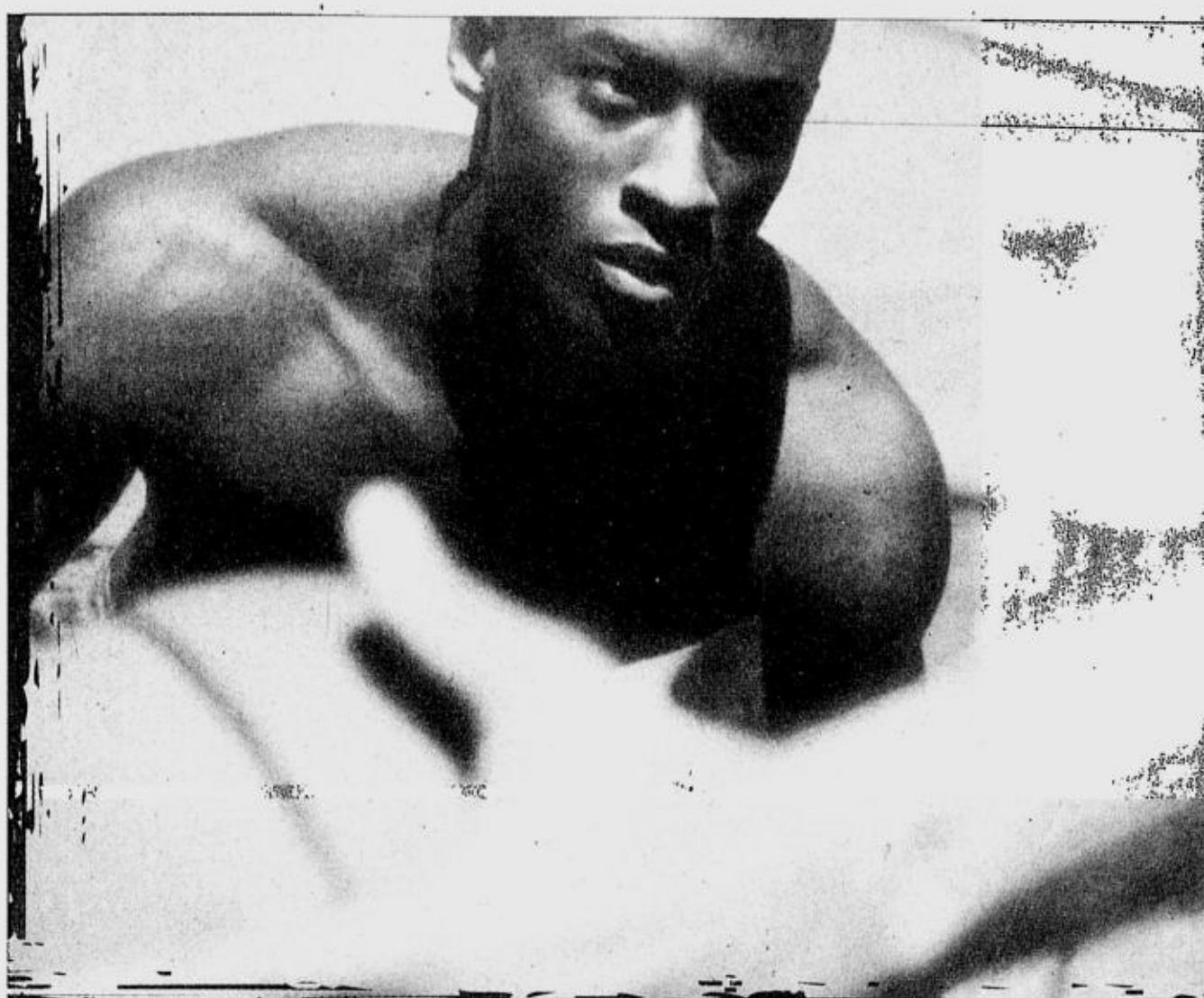
The DBTI booters surged to a 2-0 halftime lead on the goals of Jermaine Japitana and Jasper Braga in the 14th and 44th minutes, respectively.

But the NOHS boys fought back furiously and took advantage of DBTI's defensive lapses to produce the stalemate. Robby Jay Absin struck in the

68th minute to cut the deficit, and then John Philip Las Piñas, a recruit from three-time national champion Silliman University, came through in the 86th for the tying marker.

Officials canceled the opening ceremony due to bad weather. But the guests—Philippine Football Federation president Rene Z. Adad, retired Coca-Cola Co. Far east vice president Robert Harland, Congressman Monico Puentevela and Bacolod CCBPI official Joemari Imutan—watched from the stands.

The national finals will be staged in Iloilo City on Jan. 31 to Feb. 4.



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SUNDAY,
NOVEMBER 25, 2001

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

A 23

METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Alma resorts to prayer power

BY LEAH SALTERIO

ACTRESS Alma Moreno has requested friends and relatives to take part in daily, round-the-clock prayers for her son Vandolph Quizon and his girlfriend, Desiree Raquiza, who are still in critical condition following a road accident last

Monday night.

The prayers are being said even as Vandolph's orthopedic surgeon, Dr. Antonio Rivera, issued a statement saying the young actor remained in critical condition in the ICU, primarily because of his head injuries.

"He has no need of casts and is now able to move both his arms and legs," the doctor said. "All wounds

are dry and free from infection. Once he recovers from his head injuries, there will be a long period of rehabilitation. But Vandolph is expected to walk normally and even play basketball."

Vandolph, who is Moreno's son with ace comedian Dolphy, has been confined in the Makati Med ICU since Monday following the accident in Pozzorubio, Pangasinan.

Every day at 3 p.m., employees at the Parañaque City Hall say the rosary for the two 17-year-old students, according to Moreno, whose husband is Parañaque Mayor Joey Marquez.

The couple's children also say hourly prayers together with their house helpers in their residence in Parañaque, she said.

Even her Los Angeles-based sis-

ALMA RESORTS/ A24



MORENO

Manila dad proposes measure vs street humps

MANILA motorists would no longer have to endure bumpy rides on the city's streets if an ordinance seeking to penalize the indiscriminate laying out of humps and other street obstructions would be passed into law.

Councilor Marlon Lacson of the city's second district said on Friday

that "more often than not, humps and other road obstructions prove to be more of a hazard than a safety measure which unduly burdens" motorists, commuters and even pedestrians.

Humps made of concrete, plastic or wood are often found on alleys and streets in the city's residential

areas, supposedly to deter motorists from speeding and to avert traffic accidents.

But some of the humps are placed illogically and some are too big and could damage the bottom of vehicles, Lacson observed. Some streets also have too many humps that inconve-

nience motorists, he added.

Lacson's proposed ordinance was sent to the city council's committees on laws and on engineering and public works for first reading during a session early last week.

Under the proposed ordinance,

MANILA/ A24



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Manila dad...

(From page A23)

a person or a group must first obtain the "express consent" of the city engineer before putting up humps or other road obstructions.

Lacson, the council's majority floor leader, said the applicant should also be able to justify the construction of a hump.

Once the ordinance is passed into law, the city engineer and his deputized agents would be tasked to "summarily demolish" all unlawfully placed humps and obstructions.

People who lay out humps and other obstructions without a permit could be jailed for one to six months or be fined a maximum of P3,000, or both. Jerome Aning

Cop surrenders after shooting drug suspect

BY ALCUIN PAPA

A MAKATI policeman and a barangay captain are in hot water for the shooting to death of a drug suspect and the theft of another policeman's gun in Makati City.

SPO1 Rogelio Castrillo, who is assigned to the city's Barangay Kasilawan, yesterday surrendered himself to Insp. Romeo Ramos, chief of the Makati City Police homicide section.

Police said Castrillo on Friday night shot and killed a suspected drug pusher identified only as James.

Castrillo told investigators he conducted a drug bust in Barangay Kasilawan with barangay captain Pablito Guce around 11 p.m. Friday.

Together with barangay watchmen, Castrillo and Guce managed to apprehend the suspected drug pusher who, the policeman said, had a sachet of shabu.

Castrillo claimed that while they were bringing the suspect to the barangay hall, James attempted to grab his service firearm.

In the scuffle, the policeman shot James twice in the chest, Castrillo

said.

Guce, who was said to be a few meters away from Castrillo and James when the shooting happened, ordered his men to rush James to the Makati Medical Center but the drug suspect was declared dead on arrival.

Castrillo surrendered himself and his service pistol to the Criminal Investigation Division of the Makati Police.

Police records said Guce, who is overall chair of the Liga ng mga Barangay sa Peace and Order, and Castrillo would themselves be in-

vestigated for the theft of another policeman's pistol earlier this month.

SPO3 Edgar Frias, assigned to the Public Safety and Protection Office in Camp Crame, on Thursday appeared at the Makati Police headquarters to file a complaint against Guce and Castrillo.

Frias accused the two men of stealing his .45 caliber pistol from his house in Barangay Kasilawan on Nov. 8.

Inspector Ramos said his unit would thoroughly investigate the two cases—the shooting of James and the theft of the pistol.

Alma resorts to prayer power

(From page A23)

ter Debra, who is the mother of starlet LJ Moreno, has organized round-the-clock prayers for Vandolph's recovery.

Moreno said she is overwhelmed by the outpouring of moral support, heart-warming text messages and phone calls from her colleagues in show business.

She said fellow actress and Lipa City

Vilma Santos called her on her mobile phone to say she has also been praying for Vandolph.

Actress and social worker Rosa Rosal visited Vandolph in the hospital.

Born-Again Christian actress Coney Reyes prayed over Vandolph and his girlfriend in their ICU rooms.

TV host and Inquirer Entertainment columnist Kris Aquino visited the

Carmelite sisters in Lipa and requested them to pray for Vandolph, who is her kumapare, and for Desiree, Moreno said.

Talent manager Dolor Guevarra gave a rosary, which was placed on Vandolph's pillow. Another talent manager, Lolit Solis, gave a small prayer book which was attached to Vandolph's hospital gown.

The parish priest of Colegio de San

Agustin, where Vandolph and Desiree are high school juniors, also came and prayed for them.

Moreno said her female aides and members of the Pam-aque City Hall staff — Josie, Pam, Pete, RJ, Lando and Attorney Asoy — volunteered to donate blood for Vandolph.

Doctor Rivera, who is also the executive officer of the Makati Med Department of Orthopedics, said Friday: "(Vandolph) has to be monitored closely to avoid complications that can occur after massive injuries of this nature. Fortunately, his multiple fractures will no longer be a problem in his recovery."

Vandolph is also being monitored by a neurosurgical-neurological team headed by Dr. Gerry Panlilio. The others in the team are Doctors Roland Padilla, Bienvenido Aldanes and Pia Banico-Villanueva.

Rivera explained that Vandolph's orthopedic injuries are an open-book-type fracture of the pelvis, a fracture dislocation of the left hip, a complete fracture of the left thigh bone, the right leg bones and the right arm bone.

During the 12-hour operation on Vandolph last Tuesday, "all fractures were successfully stabilized with nails, plates and screws," said Rivera.

House painter electrocuted

PAINTER Rogelio Sorbito died of electrocution while his assistant was injured when the iron ladder they were using accidentally touched an overhead high-tension wire in Sampaloc, Manila Friday night.

Sorbito, 46, a widower and resident of Lawin Street, Novaliches, Quezon City, died at the Chinese General Hospital in Sta. Cruz at 10:40 p.m. Friday. His assistant, Nelson Amodia, 23, single, is confined in the same hospital for burns on the left arm.

They were painting the roof deck of a house on Ibarra Street when they were electrocuted about 11:30 a.m., said SPO1 David Tuazon. They were moving the ladder when it touched the high-tension wire, Tuazon said.

The shock threw Sorbito from the third floor to the ground below. Amodia was able to let go of the ladder and he landed on the roof deck.

Jerome Aning

Pasig yields 2 bodies

THE BODIES of two men believed to be "salvage" victims were found floating in the Pasig River in Manila yesterday.

The first was of a youth of about 20 who was slim, about 5-foot-7 and wearing a pair of black boxer shorts. The body was fished out of the river's southern bank near the Arroceros Forest Park.

The victim appeared to have head injuries, which could mean he was knocked on the head before he was thrown in the river, and he was either unconscious or too weak to swim to safety.

The second body was found by children playing at the Baseco Compound on the river's northern bank about 1:45 p.m.

The bodies were taken to the Tres Amigos Funeral Homes in Paco for autopsy. Jerome Aning

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ZONTA BAZAAR TODAY

The Zonta Manila International Bazaar will be held today at the Manila Peninsula Rigodon Ballroom and the Garcia Villa Rooms from 8:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. About 140 concessionaires will sell toys, wines and liquors, books, jewelry, decors, ceramics, clothing and accessories, leather goods, handicraft, linens and houseware and foodstuff. Major credit cards will be accepted. The Manila Zontians include (front row, left to right) Lilit Besa, Meding Arellano, Dory Zalamea, Menchu Pascual, Baby Perez Sison, president, Nonie Basilio, Area I director, Gina Giraldez, Lalin Basilio, Pie Puno; (second row) Diana Franco, Loudette Tolosa, Lily Yang, Julie Jalbuena, Arlene Gisbert, Ana Pastelero, Teresita Herbosa, Nila Mata; (third row) Pacita Zara, Anna Tess Oracion, Lillian Toundjis, June Keithley Castro, Connie Geotina, Nida Lopez and Mel Reyes.

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BONNEVIE. Goes period in "Tatarin."

Aguiluz directs Nick Joaquin classic

NATIONAL Artist for Literature Nick Joaquin depicted the roaring '20s in his masterpiece, "Tatarin," which was first produced as a period play. It presented the ancient pagan dance ritual that is "Tatarin," a celebration which coincides with the feast of St. John the Baptist.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS



Leah Salterio

in December.

To give "Tatarin" a more distinguished credit, another National Artist, Lucresia Kasilag (music), composed the music. Edna Vida of Ballet Philippines choreographed the dance rituals and Dez Bautista was tapped as production designer for the period setting.

Dina Bonnevie and Edu Manzano don period costumes as they lead the stellar lineup of stars in "Tatarin." Other members of the cast are Raymond Bagatsing, Carlos Morales, Patricia Javier, Daniel Fernando and Rica Peralejo, with the special participation of Tony Amador and Chin-Chin Gutierrez.

"Tatarin" uses the backdrop of the American occupation, the period where the picturesque "Tatarin" ritual awakens the goddesses in the quiet, passive spirits of a mistress of a mansion, Lupe (Dina) and her maid Amada (Rica). Drawn to worship of a centuries-old Balete tree, Lupe and Amada are caught in a trance that liberates them from all their inhibitions.

"Through ceaseless chanting, Lupe and Amada empower the weakest of their sensibilities," Tikoy explains. "And by some form of erotic pagan dance, they rouse to frenzy the most savage of their desires that from long ago, had been shackled to frigidity by men who dominate their world."

Both Tikoy and Ricky consider "Tatarin" their most important project to date.

"It is an honor for us to bring to the big screen the work of Nick Joaquin," Tikoy says.

The director's film credits include "Boatman," "Segurista," "Rizal sa Dapitan," and "Biyaheng Langit."

Tikoy is also at the helm of the upcoming Cinemania Film Festival, to be held next month.

Ricky, meanwhile, wrote the screenplay for memorable films like "Himala," "Brutal," "Salome" and "Karnal" among many others.

Mikey still at it

THERE'S no stopping Mikey Macapagal-Arroyo from pursuing his show biz ambition. Despite his post as vice governor of Pampanga, Mikey finds time to be in movies, too.

After teaming up with Judy Ann Santos in "Mahal Kita, Kahit Sino Ka Pa," Mikey has several new projects. Intended for the Metro Manila Film Festival is "Di Kita Ma-Reach," where he is paired for the first time with LJ Moreno. The movie is the maiden offering of Ecorp Movie Ventures and is directed by Willy Milan.

Mikey has also wrapped up "Walang

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Twenty different awards will be given out at the 2002 MTV Asia Awards, including 11 "Favorite Music Artist" awards from territories around the region, six "International Music" category awards, one "Fashion" category award, one "Film" category award and one "Inspiration" award. Nominees for each category have been compiled from votes of key figures from the Asian

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music, entertainment and fashion industries.

Winners will be revealed at a ceremony to be held before a live audience of more than 7,000 fans at the Singapore Indoor Stadium, which will include the four lucky barkadas who will win the Singapore trip from SMART's Barkada SIM Swap Promo. The ceremony will be taped and aired to over 150 million viewers across Asia, with highlights being seen on MTV's channels around the world.

Nominees for each category will be promoted on MTV's six channels and online sites across Asia from November 12, 2001.

All award categories (except for the "Inspiration" award) will be selected by the viewers and fans in 10 markets through an open poll from November 12, 2001, to January 18, 2002. Viewers can vote at local voting partner outlets in each market. In the Philippines, they can also vote by texting MTV to 211 through SMART. The "Inspiration" award will be a special honor presented by MTV to either an inspiring individual whom young adults across Asia admire, or to an organization that has contributed to the betterment of Asian youth and the whole region. According to Frank Brown, President of MTV Asia, "It's really

exciting for us to be presenting the first-ever pan-regional awards show recognizing and paying tribute to the talented artists loved by viewers across Asia. The MTV Asia Awards will provide a platform to bring together international and Asian talent, and to showcase them globally via our network of channels."

SMART Communications is proud to be a part of this momentous celebration of youth culture through the universal language of music, and joins MTV Asia and its other partners in honoring the vast and diverse talents that the region has to offer.

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MTV Europe music awards

LONDON/FRANKFURT—MTV Networks Europe recently announced the nominations and all-star performer and presenter line-up of the ceremony, which takes place at the Festhalle, Frankfurt.

The special will be aired on MTV Philippines at 9 tonight.

The list of top international artists was revealed by Brent Hansen, president and chief executive, MTV Networks Europe and Ali G, host of the awards.

Ali G, International Supastar and Ghetto Pimp, is the latest in a long line of talented presenters who have taken charge as host of the show. With his irrepressible blend of comic genius and his wicked sense of style, Ali G is set to take the MTV Europe Music Awards 2001 by storm, and promises to be one of the most unforgettable hosts the event has ever seen.

Virtual band, cartoon indie beat-freaks Gorillaz, leads the nominations table with six separate award nominations including best group, best dance, best new act, The Web Award, best song and best video for "Clint Eastwood."

R&B superstar Craig David, US rockers Limp Bizkit and Irish legends U2 follow hot on the Gorillaz heels, with four nominations each.

British sensation Craig David, electronic rock giants Depeche Mode, German rockers Rammstein and US punk rock trio Blink 182 join an already star-studded line-up in this year's awards, including the hottest female artists of 2001, Destiny's Child and Dido.

Confirmed celebrity presenters include Emma Bunton, Nelly Furtado, Eddy Grant, Sandra from Guano Apes and Ronan Keating.

Aguiluz . . .

(From page A25)

Iba Kundi Ikaw" for MMG Films, with Geneva Cruz as his leading lady. The movie is directed by Jose "Kaka" Ba-lagtas.

Mikey will soon start filming an action flick with Ace Vergel.

Mikey juggles his time between his political work in Pampanga and his show biz commitments. "I'm in Pampanga five times a week and I shoot my movies after office hours and during weekends," he says. "I make sure I'm always present during sessions. I don't want to be criticized for being absent."

In "Di Kita Ma-Reach," he has kissing scenes with LJ. "But we managed to keep it wholesome," he says. "I don't want my mom to react if she sees me doing torrid kissing scenes onscreen. I also don't want to give other people the wrong impression."

Starring with Mikey and LJ are Raymond Bagasting, Ana Capri, Tonton Gutierrez, Elizabeth Oropesa, Eula Valdez, Tommy Abuel, Bearwin Mely, Yam Ledesma and Erwin Mateo.

ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Box-office records fall as 'Harry Potter' surges

AS we surmised some days ago, "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" has become the biggest hit of the current film year, break-

ing a number of box-office records along the way. Before Chris Columbus' movie opened, the record for the big-

gest one-day movie gross was held by "Star Wars: Episode One-The Phantom Menace" (\$28.5 M). "Harry Potter's" new

record: \$32.9 M. Three-day weekend gross? Previous record-holder: "Planet of the Apes" (\$68.5 M). "Harry Potter's" new

record: \$93.5 M). This even beat the four-day showing (\$90.2 M) of "The Lost World: Jurassic Park."

The next record to be toppled is the number of days it takes for a movie to break the magic \$100-M mark that

makes a film an "official" box-office hit. The previous record was five days; "Harry Potter" should beat that handsily with four.

What makes "Harry Potter" such a runaway winner? First, the books have sold over

116 million copies, and most of those readers can be expected to be interested in seeing for themselves how the first movie version will turn out.

Second, the movie is about a young wiz-

ard, and that's a headily empowering attraction for young viewers.

Third, the film didn't scrimp on budget, spending \$125 M on its special effects and production values (most movies are bud-

VIEWFINDER



Nestor U. Torre

geted at only half that, tops).

Well, the expense is turning out to be a good investment, because the film will be making more megamillions in the months to come. The big question is, how much more?

Specifically, can "Harry Potter" ever hope to threaten or even top the long-term box-office record set by "Titanic"? That blockbuster is reported to have made over a billion dollars over the long haul since it was first shown. Does "Harry Potter" have the "legs" to go the distance in that amazing way?

Fact: "Titanic" cost a whopping, record-setting \$200 M to make, as opposed to "Harry Potter's" \$125 M. That means that "Harry Potter" will be getting from gross to net earnings much faster.

Fact: "Titanic" wasn't a record-holder in the one day, three-day, and other categories, while "Harry Potter" has broken records in those departments.

This means that "Titanic" picked up steam at the box-office, until it became a must-see movie for most viewers. It also did substantial "repeat" business (viewers seeing it more than once).

On the other hand, "Harry Potter" has started out very strongly, so the question is, can it build on that advantage, or will box-office figures dip significantly in the next couple of weeks?

If they remain impressive, then "Harry Potter" could go the distance, and "Titanic" may eventually lose the right to proudly shout, "I'm the King of World!" What do you think?

In any case, we're particularly lucky this month because, not only did "Harry Potter" open last Nov. 21, but "Monsters Inc." is also playing in town on Nov. 28! The Disney movie is also a big hit (it made \$62.2 M in three days earlier this month). Enjoy!

'Lovelo'
"LOVELOCK," a unique hair and photo exhibition, opens on Nov. 26 at the Alliance Gallery, 209 Nicanor Garcia St., Bel-Air II, Makati. The exhibition showcases the collaborative creativity of Eric Faury and Neal Oshima.

More nominees
OTHER stylish personalities nominated for Roehr-Mega Fashion Awards (finals on E! Philippines at 8 p.m. today, Nov. 25) include:

Commercial model of the year: (male) Borgy Manotoc, Jay Co, Jason Ercieg, Paolo Relucio and Carlo Muñoz; (female) Sarah Meier, Phoenixa Barranda, Cristina Garcia, Kyla Fernandez and Amanda Griffin.

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OPENS DEC.5

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SKYFILMS

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See leaflets or call 762-7880 to 83 for details.
Per DII-NCR Permit No. 3770 Series of 2001.

MTRCB PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

From 'orphan' to pop superstar

Mariah in a heartwarming rags-to-riches music drama

Pop music legend Mariah Carey makes her major feature film debut in Columbia Pictures' GLITTER, an emotional and heartwarming drama with music featuring her hits "Never Too Far" and "Loverboy."

GLITTER is the story of a young singer, Billie Frank, who overcomes a troubled childhood and struggles to find her true family and her true voice.

Abandoned as a child by her mother, Billie grows up in an orphanage. Discovered by a charismatic "bad boy" deejay who becomes her lover, she is soon on her way to pop superstardom.

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**Grand Draw
Winner**

Bethel Joy Nessia

Cainta, Rizal

P1,162,215*

Monthly Winner
Oct. 27-Nov. 15

P100,000

Dorelie N. Francisco
Zamboanga City



Weekly Winners

P10,000



Oct. 27-Nov. 2
Manuel D. Villagrancia
San Pedro, Laguna



Nov. 3-9
Agnes M. Yap
Zamboanga City



Nov. 10-15
Meredith G. Malinawan
Makati City

* Total take home prize is the grand prize of P1,000,000 plus a jackpot of P162,215.

Daily Winners of P5,000

October 27
Alejandro B. Jalandoni
711 A. Mariano St., Bagbaguin,
Caloocan City

October 28
Norayda D. Herrera
L4 Blk11 Ferrer St., Bahayang Pag-Asa,
Bgy. Maharlika, Imus, Cavite

October 29
Vennicia P. Quintos
4 Remarville Ave., Remarville Subd.,
Bgy. Pamplona, Las Piñas

October 30
Ma. Victoria M. Rivera
B1 L13 Polaris Cmpd., Golden St.,
Visayas Ave., Tandang Sora, Quezon City

October 31
Sharon C. Lim
Veteran's Ave., (nr. Doctors Hospital)
Bgy. Tetuan, Zamboanga City

November 1
Arlyn Bancolo Misa
71 Malaruhat St., Amparo Subd.,
Amparo Dist., Caloocan City

November 2
Teodorica Del Rosario
Shearwater St., Vista Verde Country,
Bgy. Bulao, Cainta, Rizal

November 3
Anna Liza L. Ramos
399 B. Pacheco St., Tondo, Manila

November 4
Jane U. Salva
B1 L6 Ph4 Pacita Complex 1, San Pedro, Laguna

November 5
Vincent J. Bacojo
Mambulac St., Bgy. Mambulac, Silay City

November 6
Myrna Tejada
625 F. Blumentritt, Bgy. Hulo, Mandaluyong City

November 7
Eloisa Marie E. Santos
B2 L18 Palmera St., Bgy. Sta. Monica,
Palmera Hms 4, Quezon City

November 8
Indira Abella
Tungkil Rd., Bgy. Tungkil, Minglanilla, Cebu

November 9
Michelle Dayanan Pasague
2751 Hencalles St., Bgy. Bangkal, Makati City

October 1
Pebbles C. Garcia
Fishermens St., Fishermens Vill.,
Bgy. Tugas, Tanjay, Negros Occ.

November 10
Edward D. Castro
U-208 EGI Hms. 4 Condo., Bataan St.,
Sampaloc, Manila

November 11
Jennifer A. Salandanan
2829 Javier St., Gagalangin, Tondo, Manila

November 12
Ma. Theresa Oriendo Disu
147 Mabilao, San Fabian, Pangasinan

November 13
Merlita D. Mariano
BA L07 Quimpo St., Ecoland Subd. 1,
Bgy. Bucana, Davao City

November 14
Reynan V. Villa
34 Tadeco St., Isabela Homes, Bgy.
New Visayas, Panabo, Davao Del Norte

November 15
Larry M. Manato
14 A Manggahan St., Signal Vill., Zone 4,
Bgy. Signal Vill., Taguig, Metro Manila

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No.1257 Series of 2001

RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor **MARGIE QUIMPO-ESPINO**, Business Features Editor

Par DTI-NCR Permit No. 3376 and 3300 Section of 2001. * Approved by DTI-NCR.

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IN YOUR FACE

BY L. P. LEVISTE



TESSIE Sy-Coson has been cited in international magazines as one of the most influential women in Asia's corporate world. As right hand woman of her father, Shoemart's Henry Sy, she certainly deserves her place in the rankings.



FIRST Guarantee Life Assurance Co. Inc. has signed an over-the-counter collection facility with the Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co. Present during the MOA signing were (seated) Peter G. Coyiuto, First Life president and CEO (2nd from left) and Henry M. Sun, Metrobank sr. executive vice president (2nd from right) with Rainelda A. Andrews, MBTC vice president/asst. area supervisor (left) and Jaime M. Santiago, FL EVP, Actuary and COO (right).

Crossing the Rubicon: Can SMEs make it?

Bridging the Gap.
Philippine SMEs and Globalization
by Augusto de Leon, et. al.
Edited by Oscar M. Alfonso
Published by SERDEF
427pp 2001

BY ANTONIO M. MAGHIRANG

GLOBALIZATION is imminent and inevitable. In the 21st century, it may well be the only game in town.

To most people, globalization connotes the triumph of the large and the mighty, the history-clinching "Big Deal" that will finally seal the ascent of the transnational corporation as King of the Capitalist Hill.

In its simplest interpretation, globalization demands that you open your doors wide because all sorts of other players from around the world will do the same. The final outcome: world-class products that even the poor will be able to afford.

The reality is that globalization is now being equated with the deluge of cheap imported products in the domestic market to the detriment of local ones.

Shaking up old notions

Naturally, governments and industries at the margin of economic development quake at the mere mention of the word. As a worldwide trend, globalization pushes local (as well as national) aspirations at the backburner.

At the same time, the scale of openness and deregulation inherent in globalization simply shakes up old notions of territoriality and captive markets, innovation and tradition, technological breakthroughs and natural resources. It turns the usual way of doing business upside down.

Small and medium enterprises (SMEs), the engines of growth in developing economies, have reasons to fear the advent of open trade. These insecurities may be easily dismissed as systemic aversion to the new. But all too clearly, the aftermath of globalization can already be gleaned from the dirt-cheap imported goods to be found these days in grocery shelves and on the sidewalks.

The new book, "Bridging the Gap: Philippine SMEs and Globalization," is a compilation of perceptive discourses on where Philippine SMEs stand in the globalizing scheme of things.

Its main premise is that a chasm separates the parochial worldview of small enterprises from the untold opportunities in a global economy.

The book hopes to bridge the gap by sharing the experiences of executives from government and the private sector, research findings by academic scholars, and lessons learned by expert trainers and consultants.

All essays draw from years of exposure by the

authors to Filipino entrepreneurs and enterprises up close but professional.

Survival imperatives for SMEs

Each essay starts with a perceptive, often unpalatable overview of the state of affairs in the SME sector. Still, the authors argue that the built-in strengths in their smallness and the unstinting commitment of the visionary entrepreneur will enable small enterprises to survive and prosper in the face of the globalization juggernaut.

In making sense of the adjustments, SMEs have to make to stay competitive, the authors generally takes the position that the old, inefficient order must die.

At the very least, the customary SOP must accommodate a faster tempo so the locals can catch up with the very agile others. The rest of the world has grown up and it is time for the Philippine SME sector to wean itself from the cocoon of protectionism and trade barriers.

Such a daring move does not have to be a leap of faith nor a plunge into the void. Augusto de Leon, a prominent business consultant and former president of RFM Corp., writing on the impact of globalization on small enterprises, suggests that SMEs will have to think globally, yet act locally to adjust to the economic realities of the business environment.

Many new opportunities become available to the entrepreneurial businessmen when vested interest groups are deprived of their protective shield. When competitive imports set in and local, large-scale operations no longer become viable, new business niches become available.

Smaller companies with lower overhead cost able to address the needs for smaller production runs and meeting specifications of small-size markets become the more competitive enterprise.

Less capital-intensive business opportunities in the field of services open up in a globalized environment.

New woes over old ones

At the outset, it must be said that the hindrances preventing SMEs from attaining world-class standing lie in deep-seated problems that have beleaguered the typical small business over the years.

The usual litany of "wants"—cheap credit, expanded market, top-notch quality, better skills—continues to turn up in the search for clues.

Similarly, the range of potential responses and possible solutions includes updated versions of time-tested approaches.

The authors then attempt to weave their recommendations into practical guides that should draw the interest even of a passive reader. These essential threads bind the book into a coherent whole.

The future must be a terrible thing to ponder, especially when it holds the threat of an unpredictable yet obliterating specter.

In the age of untrammelled globalization, the romantic notion that small is beautiful must be wilting under the escalating pressure imposed by ISO certification, continuing quality improvement, and just-in-time arrival and delivery, among others.

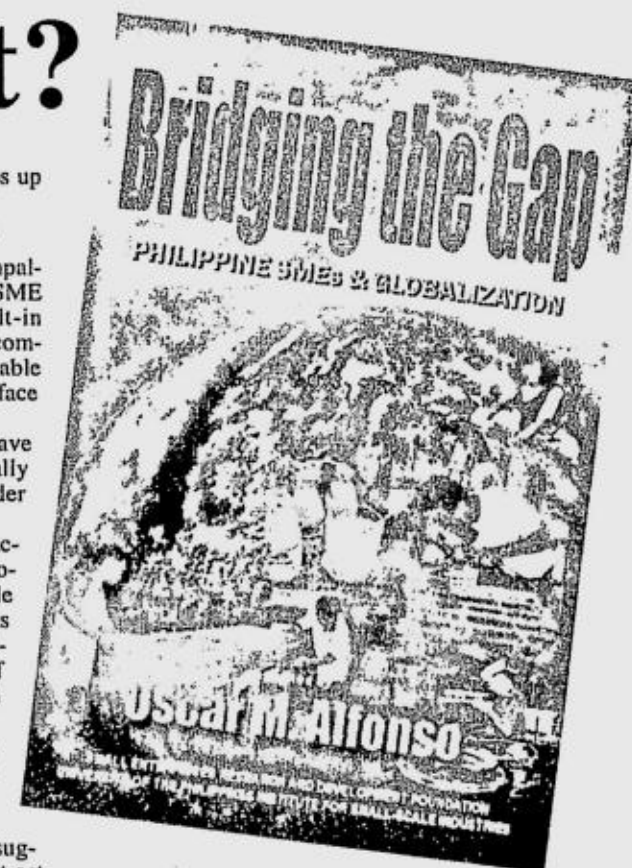
Globalization, driven by information and communications technology, has not only made the problems more complicated but also reduced response time to the barest minimum.

Expectations from SMEs, government

The key response lies in understanding how the typical SME can find its niche and pressing for it in time.

In this regard, the book offers a wealth of information and recommendations for entrepreneurs, policy makers and other active players in SME development.

Many of the areas of concern are covered, from the effects of tariff reduction to the need for quality



control and product standardization, human resources to the application of e-commerce in the new economy.

The authors provide a comprehensive assessment of the issues involved, sometimes to the point of dramatizing the disparity between the present situation of SMEs and where they should be in the emerging global economy.

In each essay, no blame is passed for the generally sad state SMEs find themselves in vis-à-vis the globalizing world economy.

Nevertheless, the vital role of government as policy-maker and builder of basic infrastructures is written large. This is no assurance that the entrepreneur can rest easy and wait for Big Brother to take the first step.

Instead, it underscores the fact that lasting competitiveness in the emerging globalized environment will be based on an enduring and productive partnership among the key players—the entrepreneur, government, industry, business associations and even the Filipino as a discriminating consumer.

Case studies

The main attraction of this book is its case studies and research findings, which illustrate the strengths of Philippine SMEs. The book notes: Unhampered by size, SMEs (are) nimble and quick in assimilating new design trends and developing contemporary products and services. SMEs have the natural tendency to be more innovative in developing indigenous materials and appropriate technology and if properly nurtured and harnessed, could easily grow into full-blown manufacturing ventures.

While the skill levels in SMEs are not very dense, employees are trainable and cost-competitive. We have diligent, capable and flexible workers.

A new jargon, globophobia, refers to the fear of globalization. This absorbing compilation, Bridging the Gap, is a good starting point in dispelling the notion that the globalized future may be a scary prospect. It shows in plain and readable language that the truly entrepreneurial has more than an even chance of pulling through unscathed.

("Bridging the Gap: Philippine SMEs and Globalization" was launched on Nov. 23 at the 25th anniversary celebration of the Small Enterprises Research & Development Foundation. For inquiries about the book, call up Myrna Co or Rachel Ruiz at 928-7076 or 927-9238.)

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

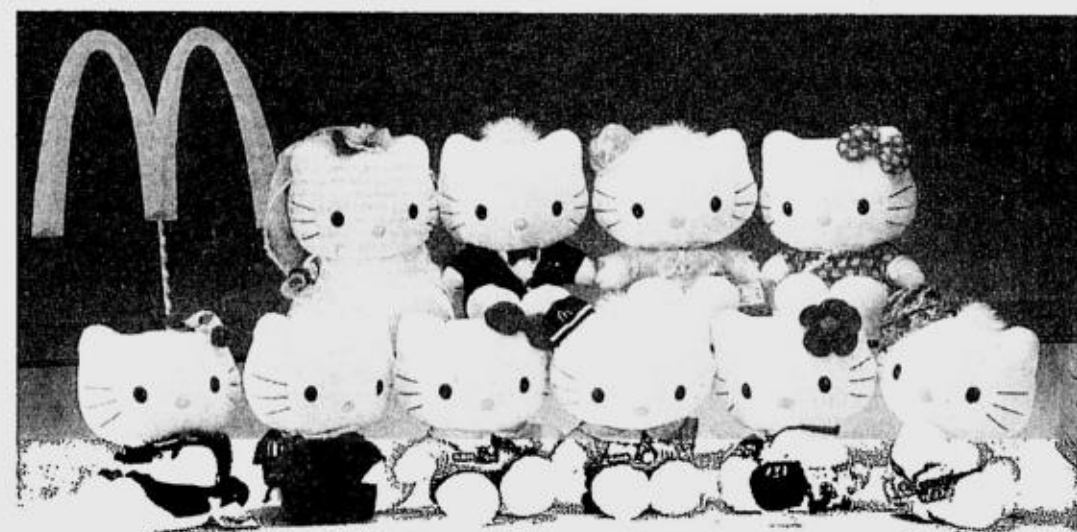
PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Donna J. Stone

DOG DAZE

ACROSS	54 "— generis"	107 Dancer	6 Cornhusker	43 Wayland	89 Meadow
1 Gung-ho	55 Road curve	Pavlova	city	Flowers	male
5 Petite	56 "Ticket —"	108 — May	7 Runway	puppet	90 Dandy
pooch	(65 hit)	Oliver	figure	44 A hole near	92 Yearn
8 Curly colt	58 Gadget	110 Nonclerical	8 Wardrobe	the sole	93 Cavalry
12 Easter	61 It may be	111 Plead	9 Dread	46 Author	characteristic
essential	square	112 Spitz sound	10 "Puttin' on	Sheehy	95 Murphy
18 Actress	64 Elsie's	114 Hamilton bill	the —	48 Great bird?	role
Merrill	chew	115 Pluck	(29 song)	49 Cotton —	97 Society
19 Crooner	66 Platinum or	117 Besides	11 Aware of	50 Computer	miss
Perry	potassium	120 Pirate's	12 Nursery	acronym	99 Essential
20 Harness	67 Picnic area	quaff	item	51 — Kippur	103 Solemn
part	69 Connection	122 Canine fairy	13 Edgar —	57 Ring	statement
21 Llama kin	72 Celebrity	talé?	Poe	figure	104 Envious
22 Faction	73 Act human	129 Captivated	14 Shows	59 Cornfield	105 Citrus fruit
23 Pin part	75 Canine	131 Christiania,	mercy	cry	106 Once in a
24 Swimmer	football	today	15 Cabbage	60 Correct a	blue moon
Biondi	player?	132 List ender	cousin	text	109 Horrified
25 Alpine	79 TV's "You	133 Set of	16 Author	62 Pat on the	113 Baby
event	— Your	135 Threads	Umberto	buns?	basenji
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movie?	80 Trusting	138 "Elephant	19 Imp's	completer	118 Draconian
30 Augsbug	sort	Boy" actor	opposite	65 Took the	119 Furry
article	82 Break	137 Depend	27 Chianti	plunge	fisherman
31 Jai —	83 Trencher-	(on)	color	68 Adams or	121 Rap or rock
32 Sup in style	man	138 "La Douce"	28 — out	McGiurg	122 Tara's
33 Tiffany	85 Certain	139 Blab	(help)	70 "Vissi d'—"	relative
treasure	prisoner	140 Alan of	29 Superstar	("Tosca"	123 Supreme
36 Failure	87 Recede	"Laugh-In"	33 Buck's	aria)	leader?
38 Roth —	88 Medieval	141 Pro-gun	"Earth"	71 Around the	124 Jacob's twin
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brother	91 Polish a	142 Astrology	Sommer	73 Intertwine	126 Tra —
41 Identical	manuscript	term	35 Canine	74 Invelined	127 Spiritual
45 Colleague	94 Batman's	143 Canine	TV	(against)	guide
of Yves and	butler	personality?	personality?	76 Personally	128 Jazzman
Christian	96 Brit. lexicon	37 — Peres,	37 — Peres,	77 Defy a	Zoot
47 Canine	98 NASA	MO	MO	dictator	129 CT hours
comic	affirmative	2 Survey	39 Justice	78 Hwy.	130 Long or
strip?	100 Brad, for	3 Foot part	Fortas	— de-	Peeples
52 Kyser or	one	4 Saw	40 Toy fate	lance	134 Eavesdrop
Starr	101 Co. kingpin	socially	42 Canine	84 Sicilian	electronically
53 Gumbo	102 Canine	5 Meter	singer?	Agit.	
veggie	aircraft?	reader?			

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ANSWER ON PAGE B5



HELLO Kitty is one of the world's most recognized characters.

The hottest new trend in ads? Targeting kids' pester power

BY ANDREW GARCIA

THE FUTURE of advertising may very well be in the hands of your children.

With over half the population now under the age of 18, the focus on child consumers—or, in essence, the parents of these consumers—will play a vital role in determining future campaign strategies for both advertisers and their agencies.

It goes without saying then, that understanding the market's behavior is the first step in constructing the appropriate strategy for this massive market.

Hello Kitty welcomed delegates of the 17th Philippine Advertising Congress to festivities, as part of Thanksgiving Thursday's lineup of sessions. Gift Gate president, Virgie S. Ramos, brought to attention the everlasting child in all people, young and old, with a dazzling presentation of her trademark character, Hello Kitty, and the rest of the Sanrio lineup.

The billion-dollar brand that is Sanrio has been around for 27 years, having become an essential part of the lives of millions of people.

Hello Kitty, in particular, was identified as one of the most recognized characters in the world, and it is Kitty's popularity with kids, teenagers and adults that makes her more appealing as a brand.

"I'm in a unique situation," says Ramos, "because Hello Kitty started as a product for kids, but has evolved into one with truly universal appeal that caters to almost any age group."

Ramos also noted that since Hello Kitty has such a widespread and diverse market, successful marketing of Hello Kitty products was tricky, considering the different needs of each group.

Starting off with a very witty Japanese "music video" that was dubbed in Tagalog and finishing off with a well-received performance of "Can't Stop Christmas" by Martin Nievera, Ramos' presentation delved deep into the audience's senses, using humor, emotion, and sentimentality as tools to attract hearty laughter and applause from the mostly adult crowd.

The ease of the presentation highlighted the very points Gift Gate uses to attract its buyers: simple, heartwarming advertising that tantalizes your mind.

Ramos stressed the importance of captivating your audience, using events to enhance your brand and building products that are not only functional and innovative, but are fun and hip as well. "Products must be hip... there will always be a new face of Hello Kitty that you have never seen before. Sanrio is extremely quick in picking up market habits, interests and trends and making them the basis of constant reinvention.

From slums to boardrooms

(From page B1)

for training on how to teach deaf kids, she saved all her allowance and lived on instant noodles that she brought from home. When she came back she had enough for us to buy our first TV. I was in high school then," she says.

"It was only later that we realized that the lesion that she had around her mouth was because of malnutrition that she suffered because she did not eat," she relates.

What the Esguerra family lacked in material wealth, however, her parents more than made up for in terms of teaching the children the values of discipline, hard work and the determination to succeed in their chosen field.

Her disciplinarian father and her mother inculcated in their minds that they could break out of poverty by doing good in their chosen field and by saving their money.

Her sisters went to the field of arts, but for Carreon, education was her ticket to a better life, and she pursued it with a vengeance.

Carreon has been a consistent honor student since grade school. She graduated valedictorian from the Burgos Elementary School, got a scholarship from the International School (Manila) where she graduated salutatorian.

Exemplary student

Her impeccable record continued in college, where she was consistent college and university scholar from the University of the Philippines. She finished with a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics, with her studies financed entirely by the government, since she was a National Science and Development Scholar for four years.

"You can perhaps call me a nerd because my life was just all about home and school. I did not have time for recreation. I did not go to the movies or go anywhere else because my studies were my priority. I knew even then that I can only escape from poverty if I studied well and get a good job," Carreon says.

She even looked the part with her big, thick glasses, long hair parted in the middle and her slight 80-pound frame.

Her efforts, however, paid off as she was one of a handful of graduating students that NCR Phils. invited to be part of their company.

"NCR was the second biggest computer company at that time, next only to IBM. They went around the universities in January and administered exams. I perfected that exam, so I had a job even before I graduated from school," she says.

The determination that she showed in doing well in school, she carried through her working life. From NCR where she worked for four years, she rapidly ascended the corporate ladder, working for different companies such as IBM Philippines, Banco Filipino and SGV—all in the field of information technology.

Government

From the private sector, she found herself in government as deputy commissioner of the Bureau of Internal Revenue. She worked there for just two years but it was among her most fulfilled years, knowing that she is giving something back to the country that has been good to her.

Her savings, however, were fast dwindling since she, by then, had to support three daughters through school, so she made the jump again to the private sector, this time as managing director of SAP Philippines where she stayed from March 1998 to Nov. 30, 2000.

From there she moved to her present job as president and chief executive officer of BayanTrade Dotcom Inc.

As she went up the corporate ladder, she did not leave her studies behind. She went on to get a Master's Degree in Business Administration also from U.P. where she graduated second in the class with an academic rating of 1.428. She also pursued her doctorate studies in Public Administration. She only lacks her thesis before she can graduate.

If she does, then she would equal the feat of her mother, who by her own efforts, pursued post graduate studies and became a doctor in special education. Her mom was a picture of determination and Carreon took her lessons to heart.

Her determination to succeed, however, and her penchant for hard work have rubbed some people the wrong way, saying that she tends to be a control freak at work.

She acknowledges many of the concerns but she says it is hard to let go of old habits when these were the same ones that helped her break out of poverty.

Family

"How can I relax when poverty is still something that lives around me? My aunts and my family are still there in Sampaloc where I grew up and I also still have to support some of my sisters. When you are surrounded by poverty, what can you do," she says.

Carreon, however, says that she strives to mellow a little now that she has gone past her 50th year. She spends more time for herself, with her three daughters and her two grandchildren.

"I teach my kids the way that my Mom taught me. They observe what I do and I tell them to pursue what they want out of this life. I always tell them that education and knowledge are paramount. These are the key investments," she says.

Her eldest daughter Tricia, 27, is the mother of her two grandchildren; Claudine is a brand marketing officer at the Universal Robina Corp., graduating cum laude and her youngest, April, graduated magna cum laude and is now working for Accenture.

"I tell them that I do not want them to go through life the way that I did. I want them to be free to do what they want and be the best that they could be. I am really just telling them what my Mom taught me," she says.

Carreon is still many years away from retirement but typical of her, she already has plans. One of these is to set up a non-government organization for gifted children. This body would help gifted children, especially those from the poor, to channel their gifts to do something good.

She would also continue overseeing the foundation that her mother set up—the Philippine In-



CARREON wants to go back to government service one of these years.

'There are only two wise investments—real estate and education.'—Carreon

stitute for the Deaf—to help deaf children to speak.

Helping others

"We now have over 100 children at the school and my sister Julie is taking care of the daily operations. I hope that my daughters would help out eventually," she says.

She also hopes to complete her doctorate studies. If she does, then she would equal the feat of her mother who, by her own effort, finished her doctorate in special education.

"They say that I am a carbon copy of my Mom. I take that as a compliment because she was an inspiration. She died in 1991 and I am a bit sad because I would have wanted her to see where I am now," Carreon says.

VITARICH CORPORATION RENEWS PARTNERSHIP WITH BOCM-PAULS

VITARICH CORPORATION, one of the leading integrated feeds supplier in the country, renews its technical partnership with BOCM-PAULS Ltd., the leading animal feeds manufacturer in the United Kingdom.

BOCM PAULS Ltd. holds the leading market position in all the major livestock classes. With strong emphasis on Quality and Research & Development, the company takes the lead in product development, innovative service and feeding strategies ensuring customer satisfaction and profitability - helping them achieve and exceed their objectives in terms of productivity and performance from their stocks.

This partnership -- the technical expertise of BOCM PAULS, Ltd. and the growing resources of VITARICH - has ensured high quality products and cost-efficient production, this has brought forth productivity and competency, and has gained the trust and confidence of the livestock market in the agricultural industry.



Thus, this renewal assures the market with extensive brand values, sufficient technical services, and a continual focus on research and development that will help their industrial consumers attain effective farm management and profitability.

Seated during the signing of agreement last October, 2001: (L-R) MESSRS. ARMANDO B. ESCOBAR, President Vitarich Corporation and ROGER JONES, BOCM PAULS OF UK.

SONY

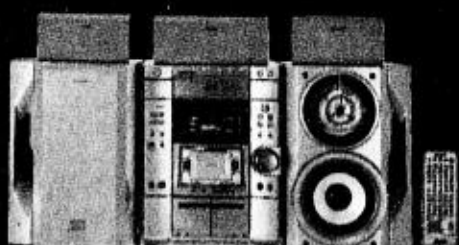


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Mall owners try to outrace each other for mall rats

BY ANNE LUISA E. VILLARICO

FILIPINOS are natural "mall rats." Research shows that a shopper spends an average of 4-5 hours when he goes to a mall. But because of the economic crisis, consumers have cut their spending.

Yet mall owners are continually expanding and changing their looks. And the stiffer the competition becomes, the more they invest on improving their image to try and catch the bulk of the choosy customers.

With its slogan "Because You Deserve More," the Ayala Center is undertaking innovations to get back its previous position as the country's premier entertainment hub in the Philippines.

In a sense, Ayala is playing catch-up via its latest innovation—the Greenbelt retail entertainment center to open in March 2002. The new structure is located behind the existing Greenbelt Cinemas.

"That is the first destination that will bring together the best chefs, restaurant owners, bars to cater to the urban lifestyle with about 70 and more food outlets that are slated to open by March 2002," says Winnie Nazareth, assistant vice president for retail and consumer services.

"We've been known to innovate, to always surprise our market," Nazareth says. Ayala center has been known as a trendsetter in the shopping mall business. They have done a research on the majority of their market—the middle end—and found out that consumers now go for local popular brands and more conscious on the quality of products with regard to clothing and apparel.

Ayala's latest innovation may have been partly prompted by the development of classier dining and shopping places in the metropolis.

The Rockwell Power Plant Mall of the Lopez group is premised on being a small shopping place of fine shops and fine dining experiences. It houses some of the most expensive shops in the country and attracts very good crowds during weekends.

A member of the SM group was supposed to have commented that the Lopezes may not be able to recover the cost of the mall because of the costly materials used in its construction.

But Rockwell believes it has its own niche market.

The SM group's reply to Rockwell is "The Podium," a high-end mall along ADB Ave. behind the Benguet Center which will have fine dining restaurants and exclu-

sive shops. There will also be a building for mix-use.

The Podium is a joint venture between SM and the Keppel Group of Singapore. It is set to open at the end of the year.

A much less publicized development is that of Eastwood City, an IT park with big offices and numerous dining places. The place has become a favorite spot of foodies.

The Ayala malls hope to cash in on the food market by creating a venue for various restaurants and entertainment centers. This December, new dining places are set to open in the Greenbelt arcade and more bars are to soon to follow by January.

"We want to give them (consumers) not just beyond what they expect in a typical mall," Winnie Nazareth, assistant vice president for retail and consumer services says. Every weekend, there's always something happening at Ayala centers because they are good at bundling activities.

They have also found out that one thing that does not change among Filipino consumers is their penchant for entertainment.

Shoppers do not only look for goods to buy in a mall, they are also on the lookout for significant entertainment, attractions and recreation.

And entertainment does not only mean shopping and movies, it also gives focus on food and dining experience.

Nazareth says the Filipino family usually includes eating out when they go to the mall. "We have made it a point to look at that lifestyle. We want to give them more choices of where they can spend at this moment," Nazareth says.

The business of food and entertainment has really adjusted to the market.

"Now, it's a restaurant, after 9 p.m., it's a bar," Nazareth wants to give the consumers an affordable quality of food but in a restaurant-like setting.

Next year, restaurant bars such as Gerry's Grill, North Park, Geisha's Wild Bill, Gilligan's Island and Max's Restaurant will be situated in what used to be the parking lot between Anson's and Park Square 1.

What makes Ayala center different from other malls is that they're good at bundling activities. "When you think of Glorietta IV, you do not only think of movies... it's like a total entertainment package," she adds.

Ayala shopping centers include the one in Makati (Glorietta and Greenbelt), the Alabang Town Center and Ayala Center, Cebu.



PACITA DIZON (second from left) of Davao-based Dizon Farms with daughters Bebot (center) and Jeannie (extreme right), SM's senior asst. VP for Marketing Millie Dizon (extreme left) and Diane Duboulay



(From left) MINDANAO Business Reporter's Gil Abarico, Regional Dev't. Council chair Jesus V. Ayala, Indonesian Consul Bambang Pangestoe, SM's Hans Sy, Congressman Prospero Nograles, business bigwig Ruben Bangayan, and Councilor Peter Lavinia.

Taipan opens 12th mall

EAGER shoppers waited outside the SM City Davao mall before opening time last Nov. 17, and when SM executive vice president Hans T. Sy opened the doors to the first wave of customers, they simply kept pouring in.

The mall quickly became a sea of shoppers all eagerly wanting to get a glimpse of SM's first mall in Mindanao, the 12th for SM Prime Holdings.

A Blessing was held the day before in the Mall with a concelebrated Mass officiated by the Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Davao, Jimmy Afable.

This was followed by a ribbon cutting ceremony wherein top Davao officials led by Mayor Rodrigo Duterte, Congressman Prospero Nograles, Vice Mayor Luis Bonguyan and Regional Development Council Chair Jesus V. Ayala shared honors in the ribbon cutting ceremony.

They were joined by Felicidad Sy, wife of SM founder and chair Henry Sy, Sr., SM president Tessie Sy-Coson, and SM executive vice president Hans T. Sy.

Other government officials present were Presidential Assistant for Mindanao Jesus Dureza, Department of Tourism Chairperson Sonia Garcia, DOT Regional Assistant Director Roger Layson and Davao City council members Pe-



PIZZA Huts' chief operating officer Lars Peterson and his team beside the first Pizza Hut outlet in Davao.



PENSHOPPE'S Bernido Liu with SM Sr. AVP Marissa Fernan.

ter Lavinia, Suzabelle Reta and Emmanuel Galicia.

Prominent members of the Davao business community were also present: including Davao City Chamber of Commerce and Industry President John Gaisano, and Lions Club district gov. William Tan. Also gracing the blessing were Victoria Plaza's Robert Allan Limso, Ruben Bongayan, Willie and Betsy Torres of the University of Mindanao group, and Mrs. Pacita Dizon of Dizon farms together with children, Bebot, Jeannie, Boy, Sonny and Jackie. Members of Davao's working media also lent their support to the occasion.

Strategically located on a 13-hectare site in Ecoland, 76,000-square-meter, three level mall brings SM's great shopping, lei-

sure, and entertainment to Davao.

It will also serve customers in nearby areas in Region 11 like Davao del Norte, Davao Oriental, Davao del Sur, Compostela Valley, as well as the nearby provinces of Cotabato, Bukidnon, Agusan and Butuan.

SM staples will also be at the mall, including the SM Supermarket, SM Appliance Center, Surplus Shop, Health and Beauty, Family Drugstore, Toy Kingdom, and ACE Hardware.

Completing the shopping experience are more than a hundred stores that combine the best of Manila, Davao, and Cebu-based tenants, as well as well-known international brands.

These include fashion boutiques like Penshoppe, Kamiseta, Genevieve Gozum,

Oxygen, Guess, Hangten, and Girbaud; bookstores like National Bookstore; jewelry stores like Emilia's Jewelry and Nina Jewelry; as well as home furnishing stores, shoe stores, sporting good outlets, and service centers.

To serve today's generation of cyber customers, SM City Davao also has computer and telecom stores like Silicon Valley, Data Blitz, Excell, Games and Gadgets and Cell Station.

Eating out options include the SM Food Court's mix of Manila and Davao based food outlets, as well as popular fast food chains like Jollibee, McDonald's, Pizza Hut, Max's, KFC, Chowking, and Pancake House. Well-known Davao based food outlets like Dencio's, and Blugre are also located in the mall.

Completing the family fun are SM Cinema's six state-of-the-art theatres, and amusement centers like Worlds of Fun and Wonderland for Kids.



SM City Davao is located at Ecoland in Barangay Matina, Quimpo Boulevard, Davao City. It has more than 1,500 slots of customer convenience.

Village wants to carve niche . . . (From page B1)

made furniture.

Indeed, the dexterity of the fingers involved in the intricate weaving of a wicker chair, or the liquid flow of the carver's chisel and gavel on a military march cadence—following a flower pattern on a narra headboard and done like a child's play by the experts—is enough free entertainment and wonderment to all comers.

Interest is always generated by the making of bent wood and wicker furniture because the work in progress involves more like basket weaving than carpentry.

Problems

Despite the long established popularity of the San Antonio-made furniture, the industry has experienced a steady decline during the last 10 years.

During this period, according to Buama, nine of the 15 original shops have eventually closed.

Not having gone beyond the elementary grades and a stranger to the bigger forces that influence the local and global economy, Buama, like most of the other shop owners, simply blamed the matter to lack of capital.

Stranger still to him are the vital factors of competing for the global market, technology transfer, partnership, management, advertising, or simply sprucing up his shed to make a decent enough showroom.

"We only make furniture on a strictly made-to-order basis with 50 to 75 percent of the cost advanced by the customers so that we can buy the materials for the sets. They also have to wait for at least two months for the quality narra furniture set and at least two weeks for the rattan and wicker ones," Buama said.

He said he had not sold a single piece of furniture to a tourist as far as he could remember since growing up

in his father's shop because they could not wait that long.

Because of this, only the most dedicated customers have remained. And they have become fewer and far in-between during those years.

Other than lack of capital, the problem of the supply of raw materials haunts the industry further as the highly regulated supply of forest products like the narra wood and rattan continue to dwindle precariously.

This forces them to rely more heavily on the prohibitively priced supply from big-time middlemen from Metro Manila who enjoy highly profitable access to vital raw materials from as far as Palawan and Mindanao.

Flight of skills

Six other sheds just within a stone's throw away from each other, which could not even minimally qualify as showrooms or modern workshops, have, for at least three generations, been the home and school of hundreds of highly skilled wood and rattan craftsmen and entrepreneurs.

They, however, have gone to many places in the Philippines and overseas.

Born into poor families and mostly out of school before finishing a secondary education, these young men, like Buama and his brothers in their time, enter an informal apprenticeship as hired helpers because of dire need for an income.

After three to five years of dedicated manual labor using the most basic tools and without the benefit of modern machines and other equipment, they are considered graduates.

Their diploma and the degree of their expertise are not written in black and white but in the verbal testimony of satisfied mentors and customers, the richer and more highly placed they are, the more discerning and

delicate they become.

With highly competitive skills, they are the more fortunate villagers who have escaped the more difficult labor in the rice fields and farms and have better chances in life.

Among their favored destinations and where the services of these highly dedicated homegrown artisans are most in demand domestically, are the bigger export-oriented furniture factories in Metro Manila, Cebu and Northern Luzon.

They have also been known to have exported their skills and finally settled in some western European countries, the United States and Canada.

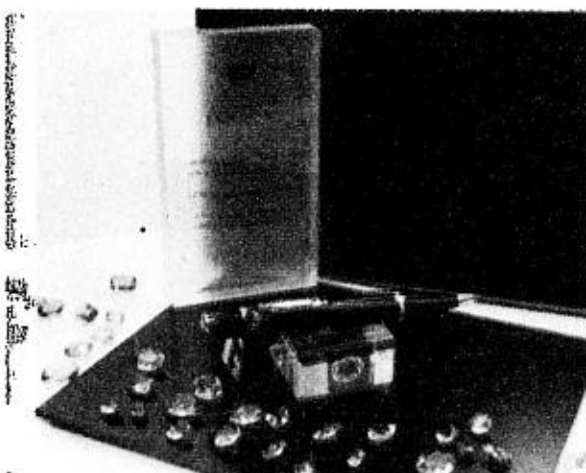
Many of the younger crop of craftsmen now working in those areas and those remaining in San Antonio are second and third-generation wood carvers, hardwood and bent wood (the American and European preferred term for rattan) furniture makers, wicker weavers and polishers.

Registered profit

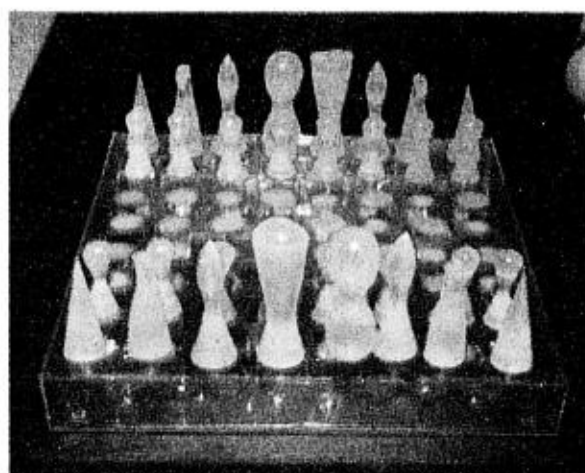
Faced with the unsettling prospect of a bleak future for his business, a series of sadly whispered "no's" was Buama's categorical answers to the questions of whether he expects government to be able to help him; if an organization like a cooperative may be able to bring back the industry into its feet; or whether he is happy with his choices in life.

"All the lifetime profit I can register perhaps are the caring and education my five children (eldest Annalyn, 19, is a computer science student and the youngest in elementary) are getting in the process and maybe, I can consider the motorized tricycle I got on installment," he said.

A down-to-earth simple accounting for a craftsman who counts success on the faces of his children rather than that reflected on a balance sheet.



BOHEME Mechanical Pencil sells for P9,750



AN executive will appreciate this chess set that sells for P6,200 from Area.

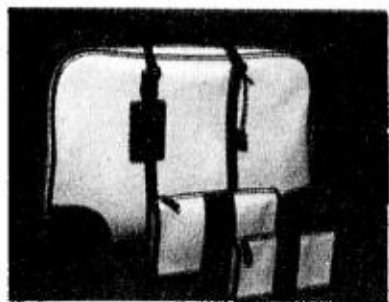
Useful gifts for the busy executive

(From page B8)

A gardener would love plants and books on the subject and an aspiring manager may like books on management.

There are, however, gifts that would be appreciated by any executive, in whatever field they may be. These are utility items such as bags and pens and also décor for the home.

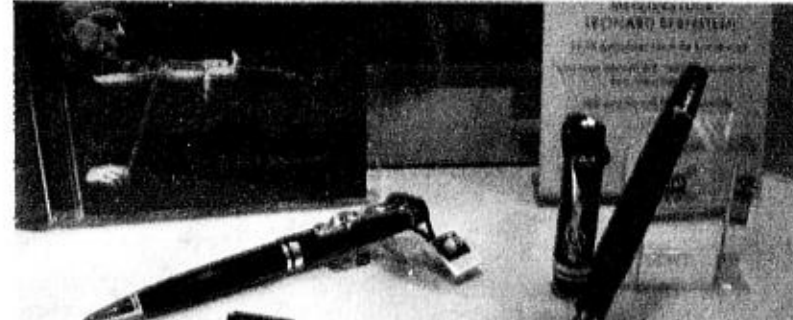
Sunday Biz made the rounds of some stores that are selling some of these basic gift items that are useful to any executive.



FINO's Solaris overnighter is perfect for a weekend business trip (P5,550). The cosmetic pouches go for between P525 and P725.



FINO Leatherware's Solaris gym bag for the female corporate executive goes for P4,950. The messenger bag sells for P3,450, while the planners' prices range from P1,950 to P2,350.



LEONARD Bernstein 23.5K gold-plated fountain pen (P22,400) and Ballpoint pen (P12,600) from Mont Blanc.

Inventors wonder how next Edisons can shine

NUREMBERG, Germany—A robot golf caddy, rubber soil and that old faithful, the miracle hair restorer, are on show in Nuremberg this month as inventors the world over try to turn their ideas into money spinners.

But the message of many at the congress, one of the world's largest such trade fairs, is that the next Thomas Edison, inventor of the light bulb, or motor-car pioneer Carl Benz faces ever greater difficulties breaking through.

Dieter Bach, president of the German Inventors Association, complained that the costs small inventors incur protecting their ideas had increased in recent years.

Small firms and individuals were far more inventive than larger concerns, he said. "Why then is it that it's just the innovations from large corporations that are promoted, while the independent inventors are left to fend for themselves?" he asked.

Bach's comments hit a common nerve in Nuremberg this month, where inventors talked of the difficulties of converting ideas into firm business plans and marketable products.

Sepp Kanzian said it had been a long, tough year to find a taker for his "Bikers Dream" mini-pump, although businessmen were eventually convinced of his design.

Others were at the start of that long road, such as Romy Salvagno, a designer whose stand was filled with drawings and small-scale models of her project—the robot golf caddy.

The humanoid figure, golf clubs sprouting from its shoulders and with an umbrella on its head, would be the ideal all-season friend to golf addicts the world over, Salvagno said.

"I've often found golf clubs don't allow you to take a trolley from November to March because they dig into the soft ground. With a two-legged robot you could focus on your golf throughout the year," she said.

The estimated price of 15,000 marks (\$6,750) might deter potential customers. For now, she needs an entrepreneur to inject funds.

Mix of wild hope, reality

The Nuremberg "Ideas, Inventions and New Products" exhibition, now in its 53rd year, is one of the world's largest such trade fairs with over 600 inventions from independent inventors from about 40 countries.

The inventions on show displayed a mixture of vain hope and reality.

The Korean hands-free mobile phone kit, using air tubes not wires, promises to take radio waves away from the brain. It has already won the Gold Award at the London International Invention Show.

A pocket-sized pouch that can be used in an emergency or protect against the inhalation of smoke and toxins may see a growing market in the new era of global uncertainty following the September attacks on the United States.

Some, such as the instant hair fringe kit, have found investors. Others, including the Taiwanese inventor of the all-in-one urinal and washbasin and the German team fitting umbrellas on bicycles, were still looking.

Worldwide patent still a dream

Farg Moussa, president of the International Federation of Inventors Associations (IFIA), said the lack of a worldwide system of patent protection was a chief worry of inventors.

"Who from Europe can go to court in Japan. There's the cost and the language... For a bigger company of course it's different," Moussa told Reuters in an interview.

"Say you want to obtain a driving license. You have to pass an exam. For almost every country, you can then come here and rent a car. You don't have to take another exam."

IFIA, founded in 1968, aims to lobby for such a worldwide system, reduce the cost of securing a patent and provide an Internet forum for new inventions.

Swiss-based inventor Hans-Joachim Mueschenborn, who has devised a system to guarantee security over the Internet, was one of many inventors in Nuremberg who could have benefited from a worldwide patent.

"The rules are varied and complex. For Germany, you pay a little at first and more later. For the United States, you have to pay all up front. In the European Union, we do now have a European Patent Office, but you'd still have to translate your plans into all the appropriate languages," Mueschenborn said.

He said the language problem was particularly acute for a more technologically advanced invention such as his own.

Seven deadly sins

Juergen Schade, president of the German patent office, said that this year German inventors would nevertheless break new records in the numbers of patents they write. He added the private inventor appeared as creative as ever before.

"This year we expect more than 53,000 patents, about 7,000 of them from independent inventors. That means private inventors account for more than the big five German firms put together," he said.

The European Patent Office believes patent officials can be more of a help than a hindrance to inventors, smoothing their progress from idea to product, but says many do not do themselves any favors.

It lists what it refers to as their seven deadly sins. Some inventions create new difficulties, worse

The next
Thomas
Edison or
Carl Benz
faces ever
greater
difficulties.

than the problems they are intended to solve, some are not new and others no one wants.

Some inventors reveal their secret to others before securing patent office protection, while others are so secretive they are unwilling even to tell patent officials.

Some inventors do not research their inventions thoroughly, while others have an unrealistic assessment of their value.

IFIA's Moussa said inventors had a special gift, but one that was not alone sufficient.

"It's a hobby. His or her mind is thinking about how to improve things. He or she can't avoid it. It's inherent. It can't be taught. What you can teach is how to advertise or sell. You can't teach how to invent," he said.

Thomas Edison himself could clearly have understood some of the modern complaints, but may have cautioned with stern words.

"There is no substitute for hard work," he once said.

Reuters



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Software AG unveils the XML Academy in the Philippines

IN ITS continuing push to promote the adoption and usage of XML (extensive markup language), Software AG, the leading provider of native XML products for the electronic business marketplace, recently announced the launch of The XML Academy in the Philippines.

The XML Academy is aimed at providing IT professionals with an opportunity to identify and engage in education courses that are most applicable to the e-business needs of their organizations. Trainees are guided to select education courses that will ultimately equip them with the necessary knowledge and skills to successfully and effectively implement and maintain XML processes when back at work.

Jenifer Sun, managing director of Software AG (Phils.) Inc., said: "In today's knowledge-based economy, it is the people who will be the driving force of any organization. Our commitment to providing the corporates of the world with sophisticated, real-world education solutions in the area of XML would mean that organizations could now deploy their talent for maximum return and also

bring their skills up to mark. She added, "Our relentless effort in helping the industry fulfill the growing need for a structured XML education will now put information and communications technology (ICT) learning on an equal playing field for those interested in mastering the latest technical skills."

She continued, "We recognize that the task of generating region-wide acceptance and usage of XML is beyond the sole effort of Software AG. As such, we are open to active collaboration with other ICT organizations like Microsoft, IBM, Sun Microsystems, to accelerate the adoption of XML in this part of the world."

The XML Academy offers XML selections that are essentially business-oriented, standards-based, and product specific in nature and scope. Based on their needs, trainees can enroll in the most suitable and relevant education course(s) that is/are designed to enable them attain an acceptable level of competency and XML literacy to solve complex, real-world business challenges.

In addition to XML-related

courses, The XML Academy also offers education courses on Software AG's Tamino XML Server, the company's suite of next generation, cutting-edge products that are based on XML technology.

Sun added, "At Software AG, we believe that after undergoing courses at the XML Academy, trainees will become more exposed, not only technically but also through the opportunities of shared experiences and expertise. This will better prepare them to meet the tough demands of today's business environment."

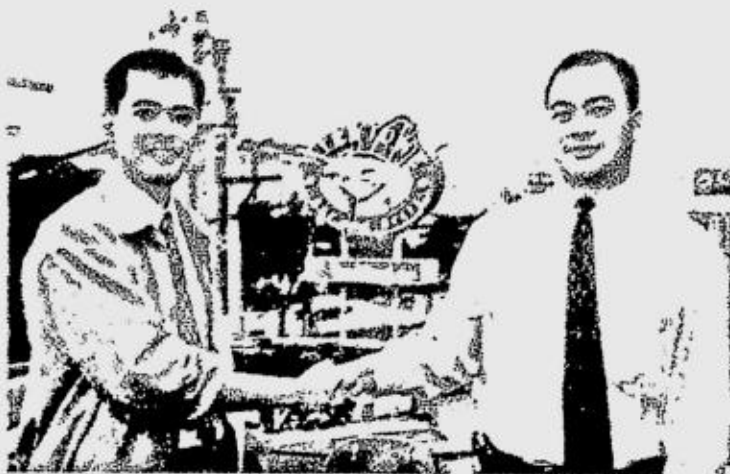
She further commented, "Trainees can also be assured that they are trained to the highest standard required in the XML framework, with a balance of theory and education to help them appreciate and accelerate the learning process."

For trainees who have undergone training at The XML Academy, they have the option to become certified either as an XML engineer or a Tamino XML engineer by successfully completing an examination that is related to the education course taken. Specifically, the examination will cover critical content areas in either XML or Tamino.



1ST CLASS GRAND WINNER

Socorro Benitez, (third from right) a depositor of 1st e-Bank's West Avenue branch, won the brand new tax-paid Mercedes Benz E240 in the bank's 1st eClass raffle promotion. Photo shows Benitez claiming her prize from 1st e-Bank president and chief executive officer Carlos A. Pedrosa (extreme right). Also shown are (from left) Fernando B. Dar, Paseo de Roxas manager, branch head; Benjamin Benitez; Agustin V. Vergel de Dios, vice president for private banking; Corazon R. Estrella, executive vice president and chief financial officer; Jose Alfredo Villanueva, executive vice president for marketing; and Col. Benjamin Benitez.



BGC COOLS PIER ONE

Bonifacio Gas Corp. (BGC), a joint venture company between Fort Bonifacio Development Corp. (FBDC) and Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. (PSPC), recently signed an agreement to provide the air-conditioning requirements of Pier One at The Fort Square. BGC will use the gas-fired absorption chiller system, the latest in mechanical engineering innovation for energy efficiency. The technology has also been found as environmentally friendly. At present, BGC is supplying the air-conditioning requirement of Storeys at the Fort, FBDC Building E and Hatchasia GlobalCity Center. Shown are Francis Juan, president, Pier One and Butch Grifal, general manager, BGC.



PIANDRE RECOGNIZES EXCELLENCE

On the occasion of Piandre Greenbelt's inauguration, Salons Systems Management Inc., manager of the Piandre and Gem Group of Salons awarded five exceptional employees at the circle of Greenbelt Mall. Presenting the awards were owner Linda Francisco and Luli Arroyo (center). Awarded from left are Jun Bilalo, recipient of the Eagle Award, for rising above personal challenges to become a stylist; Nanette Gonzales, for 20 years uninterrupted service; Perla Magpili for her selfless dedication as president of the Salon Cooperative; Alan Pineda, Eagle Awardee, and Nikki Bacay, for artistic excellence.



US ROBOTICS HOLDS RESELLERS SEMINAR

US Robotics, makers of the world's number one selling modem brand, recently conducted a seminar to familiarize its local resellers on the important features of its latest Internet access products, which include its V.92 enhanced fax modem and broadband router. Co-presented by Microwarehouse Inc. and MicroVillage, two major distributors of US Robotics products in the country, the US Robotics seminar was graced by John Rea (third from right), managing director for Asia Pacific region and Edrick See (extreme left), regional sales manager for Asia. Wireless Broadband pioneer Meridian Telecoms provided the Internet connection in the showcase of US Robotics Internet access products. Shown with Rea and See are (from left) Alvin Yu, supervisor for technical support of Meridian; Jeff Lacuata, supervisor for site survey of Meridian; Jojo Rodriguez, logistics and operations manager of Meridian; Aya Palmera, Microwarehouse marketing communications manager; Eric Sulit, Microwarehouse sales manager; Cindy Fernandez, Meridian customer service manager; Inch Veloria, Microwarehouse president; Jeffrey Choa, MicroVillage president; and Peter Maglaya, MicroVillage managing director.



AYALA PLANS RETIREMENT PROGRAM

Officials of Tshuneishi Heavy Industries (Cebu) and Ayala Plans Inc. recently signed a memorandum of agreement for the THI Employees Retirement Program. Present during the contract signing were (seated, from left) Edwin Dormitorio, THI assistant finance manager; Florentino G. Garcia, Ayala Plans Inc. (Cebu) senior regional manager; Romulo F. Alajor, Ayala Plans business director; Kenji Kawano, THI vice president; Toshifumi Nakai, THI administrative manager; Edgar Abanilla, THI accounting and finance manager; (standing, from left) Edward Paul Weber, THI HRD manager; Claro D. Cagulada, Ayala Plans Visayas sales division head; Evelyn Evangelista, Ayala Plans sales counselor and Vic Alcordero, Ayala Plans area manager.



DUMEX CHAMPIONS

Liyanna Rosellin P. Nocheseda, age 2, Melissa Jane V. Nolasco, age 6, are the first quarterly champions of the Dumex Search for Fitter and Brighter Champions for the toddler and preschooler categories, respectively. The champions each got P40,000 worth of prizes consisting of a home learning and development kit and Dumex Growing Up Milk products. Shown from left are Wilson Edrada, Dumex key account manager; Dumex mascot Dex; Raffy Santos, associate product manager; Mar Marron and Cora Lim of Mercury Drug; Melissa Nolasco and Morn; Dr. Fil Gatcheco, pediatrician and selection panel chair; Liyanna Nocheseda with Morn; Beth Dabu, medical promotions manager; Eugene Go, group product manager and teacher Aiza of The Little Gym.

Prevent fever-induced dehydration with new electrolyte drink

IT'S A FACT - high fever can cause dehydration among kids. The rising incidents of dengue can put a lot of children at risk if significant water loss - up to 10 percent of the total body water - should occur. Water is crucial in maintaining normal body functions and temperature. At the first sign of fever, give your child a mild electrolyte drink like Pedialyte Mild 30.

Specially formulated for kids, it has the right amounts of fluids and electrolytes in a convenient, ready-to-drink form and hygienic bottle. This new electrolyte drink is also ideal for preventing hydrostress or mild dehydration due to active play, prolonged exposure to the sun and hot, humid environments. Pedialyte Mild 30 comes in three fruity flavors kids will love - strawberry, grape and apple and is now available in Mercury Drug and other drugstores, selected supermarkets and groceries nationwide.

Nestlé Pulilan employee wins outstanding worker award

IN RECOGNITION of his skills and technical competence as a worker contributing to the economic growth of Bulacan, Josefino "Jocal" G. Calderon, a general operator at the Nestlé Pulilan Factory, was recently presented the Ramon Magsaysay Outstanding Filipino Worker Award by Bulacan Governor Josefina M. dela Cruz. Sponsored by the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), the award is given to Filipino workers who emulate the ideals and dynamism of the late President Ramon Magsaysay.

Pulilan Factory head Ed Legasto said that the award brings prestige and honor to Nestlé Philippines. Human resource head Christine Mauricio of the factory said Calderon is an inspiration for his colleagues. From utility serviceman in 1993, Calderon rose to the position of general operator this year.

Calderon was a Tower Awardee in 1996, a Bulacan Gintong Kabataan awardee in 1997, and a consistent Nestlé Perfect Attendance awardee for the past seven years. He is also actively involved in Alay Kapwa missions and in the Health Outreach Program of the Pulilan Factory.

Xavier School homecoming

XAVIER School Homecoming 2001 will be held on Dec. 1, at 6 p.m. at the XS grade school gym. A special show by Maxine, Mitch Valdez, Yehy! Babe Michelle Bayle and Silk will be staged at the reunion. A Nissan Exalta Grandeur will be raffled off. For tickets, alumni may call their class representatives or the XS alumni office at 727-3329.

Leisure Farms first harvest

LEISURE Farms is the country's first hobby-farming community located in Lemery, Batangas. Recently, Leisure Farms celebrated its 1st Harvest Festival. Present were Landco Pacific Corp.'s top officials and board of advisors, a pool of farm experts committed to generously lend their knowledge.

Francis V. Ceballos, chief finance officer of Landco Pacific, was among those who participated in the event. Harvested were various herbs and leafy vegetables such as basil, parsley, coriander, mint, leeks, rapid red lettuce, pechay, amaranth and others. The Demo Farms is created primarily to serve its clients with full-time farm management services, agriculture education, and technology transfer. The Demo Farms will indeed be a blessing to the surrounding community and the agri-industry. A seed we hope will grow into a garden of wealth and fruitful community. Landco Pacific Corporation is a developer of Leisure Farms.



BEST EMPLOYER AWARDEE

WG&A Philippines vice president for human resources Tess Tongco (fifth from left) and WG&A employees flash the thumbs up sign after being named one of the Top 10 Best Employers in Asia-Philippines by the Far Eastern Economic Review (FEER), Asian Wall Street Journal (AWJ) and Hewitt Associates. FEER, AWJ and Hewitt Associates conducted a joint survey to determine the companies in Asia that offer an ideal work environment for its people. WG&A was recognized for its employee programs, nurturing family-like atmosphere in the work place and for aligning their people practice to their business strategies. WG&A president and CEO Endika Abolitz thanked the employees for sharing the company's commitment to improve the overall working condition in WG&A.



2001 OUTSTANDING LMC

Central Azucarera Don Pedro (CADP) senior vice president for operations Ramon A. Picornell Jr. (second from left) raises his hands in jubilation after CADP was chosen one of the outstanding Labor Management Councils (LMCs) for industrial peace during the recent convention on Labor-Management Cooperation of the National Conciliation and Mediation Board and the Philippine League of Labor-Management Cooperation Practitioners Inc. (Philamcop). Also applauding were (from left) lawyer Rafael A. Francisco, CADP vice president for human resource management and services; Batangas Labor Union (BLU) president Rupert B. Bragado and BLU vice president Armando Mendoza.



GUZMAN COLLEGE TOPS COMPETITION

Guzman College of Science and Technology once again proved its excellence in automotive technology training when its entry Arman Dabbay won the gold medal in the youth category of the 10th Tesda-sponsored Philippine National Skills Competition in Davao City recently. Dabbay had qualified to represent the National Capital Region by emerging winner in the Metro Manila competition, a title GCST has been holding since 1995. He has been under the tutelage of Urfano Hedwig, a GCST alumnus and Leonardo Taguba, a member of the Automotive Department faculty.

WITH ONLY P1,000 CAPITAL

Friends help Palaweña cash in on cashew nuts

BY JOFELLE P. TESORIO
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—She started with a P1,000 capital in 1982 and it has come back a hundred fold since then. Thanks to a number of friends, who have become her spokespersons telling people how delicious her cashew nuts are.

Delma Agulan, 39, has become Palawan's "cashew queen." And despite the economic slowdown, her cashew business is doing well in the market.

Tita Delma, as she is fondly called, does not need advertising because her friends do it for her. Her clients were mostly referrals from friends and these clients later on became her friends, too.

"I'm the friendliest here in the public market. That is why people like to come here because they always see me smiling and joking around," claimed Tita Delma, who has spent almost half of her life selling cashew nuts.

Market life

The second in the brood of five children, she is used to hard work since her family practically lived its whole life in the public market.

Since she was a child, Tita Delma was already exposed to the life in the public market. Her family is one of the original stall owners in the Puerto Princesa public market.

Her mother still maintains a vegetable stall while her father, who succumbed to prostate cancer, used to maintain a newsstand.

Having her parents' business acumen, she started her own cashew venture with only P1,000 in 1982.

"I saw then that the cashew business is easier unlike other businesses inside the market. Cashew nuts can be disposed of easily. That time, they sold like hotcakes," she said.

When she started the business, she just shared her mother's vegetable stall.

While at her mother's vegetable stall, she used to observe a few cashew businesses—from the acquisition of supplies to packaging.

If other teenagers were preoccupied with gimmicks and *barkadas*, Tita Delma busied herself with improving the ideas she got from other market vendors.

She patiently studied how to cook the cashew nuts through trial and error until she finally discovered her own trade secret.

"The first cashew I cooked was either bland or burned. I spent so many nights discovering styles how to make my cashew delicious. I mastered it eventually," she said.

Process

Cooking cashew nuts is not as pleasurable as eating it, as it involves many processes.

After taking out the nuts from the shell, these have to be washed with soap to take away the sap that contains the bitter taste.

After washing, the nuts have to be sun-dried thoroughly to acquire the desired brittleness when cooked. Then the nuts are again washed.

The secret is in the process from washing to cooking.

The quality is affected, according to Tita Delma, if the fire is too high. The fire, which preferably should come from a certain kind of firewood, should be moderate.

The volume of cashew nuts cooked at a time is also a factor.

She advised that cooking should be done in batches, not in big volumes so that the nuts are cooked evenly.

Sales

In 1982, cashew nuts from original suppliers were sold at P35-P40 per kilo. The cooked ones were sold at P75 per kilo. Now, the capital is P150 per kilo and sold at P200.

Tita Delma says she only gets an average of P10 per kilo because the difference goes to other incidental expenses.

In 1984, Palawan cashew became famous to tourists. That was also the time when tourism became a major industry in the province.

Knowing the great potential in her market, she decided to get her own space.

Her products became a major hit not only among tourists but also among locals.

"My friends became very helpful to me at that time. It helped me a lot that I have good friends in the tourism industry because I went into tour guiding for a while," she said.

Stocks needed

Tita Delma needs more capital to acquire big volumes of raw cashew nuts during the peak season from March to May so that when supplies become low from September to February, she already has standby supplies.

During the low season, the price of raw cashew nuts tripled.

Lending institutions were still not known in the mid-'80s. She used to go to a person who lent money for a very limited period of time.

They called the borrowing "short time" because she had to return the money after a day or two. The lender got P10 for every P1,000 everyday.

If her capital allows, she stocks at least 300 kilos for a month.

She gets the stocks from suppliers in the municipalities of Araceli, Roxas, Taytay or Cuyo.

The best, she said, are cashew nuts from Cuyo, an island known for its delicious cashew brittle and *ati-athan*.

Linapacan town also has the best cashew, but traders coming from Antipolo or Tagaytay monopolize the supply.

Sub-contract

Today, Tita Delma no longer cooks the cashew nuts herself.

For P5 per kilo, elder sister Delia toasts it for her while her niece Melissa takes care of the cashew brittle for P10 per kilo.

The service is also inclusive of board and lodging. On a regular basis, she disposes 10 to 20 kilos every day. But during the height of tourism in the province, she sells at least 50 kilos everyday.

Like any other business in the province, hers was badly affected by the recent terrorists-related activities—especially the kidnapping in Dos Palmas Resort in May.

"This business depends so much on tourism that it becomes so hard for us to survive. I'm just so lucky because my old friends who helped me when I was

starting are still here to give me referrals so I don't get zero sales for a day," she said happily.

Aside from the stall she maintains at the heart of the public market, she has three wholesalers in the dried fish section.

The wholesalers get 10 to 20 kilos from her every three days. The payment is given daily for P500, so she is assured of P1,500 daily. She also gets orders from Manila and Bacolod.

Foreign orders

Tita Delma had been offered to supply tons of cashew nuts to Canada and the United States but she turned the offers down for lack of capital to cover the transactions.

According to her, it is hard to serve a big quota without capital. The supplies are enough but the money to purchase them is another issue.

"There is a big potential for this business because the turnover is fast but the capital is hard to put up. I just wish that I could win the lotto and go into export," she said.

She dreams of putting her own warehouse with enough employees to maintain big volumes of cashew

nuts.

Tita Delma is also planning to make an attractive packaging for her products to make them more competitive and to put up with the growing trend of business.

What used to be a small-time business continues to grow despite the economic slack.

She is able to send her adopted niece to school and helps 12 others.

"Without this, I won't be able to have my father operated thrice when he was suffering from prostate cancer," she said.

She was also able to go to South Korea, where she worked from 1995 to 1998, using the money from cashew.

In 1999, a big fire hit Puerto Princesa City. Her house—where almost all of her belongings, cash and properties were inside—was burned to the ground.

But she recovered because of her cashew business.

After almost 20 years, Tita Delma may not be the richest cashew nuts dealer in Puerto Princesa market but she certainly made a niche in this business.



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SundayBIZ

Useful gifts for the busy executive

BY TINA ARCEO-DUMLAO

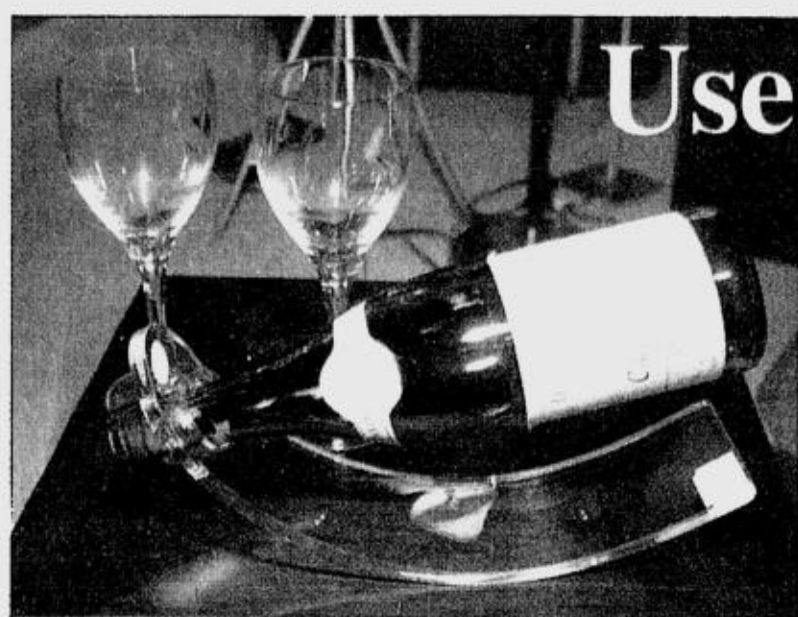
ONE of the perennial problems of companies and chief executive officers is choosing the right gift for the right people. It is useless in the end to give a gift that is worth a lot of money, but is given away to somebody else or set aside to gather dust.

The key to giving the right gifts, an executive says, is to put a lot of thought into each gift. Take the time out to know the personality of the recipient. If an executive is into golf, then it would be wise to give something related to the sport like tees, balls and even a golf club.

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THE HARDY Mendella Bag (P3,950) can be used for the office or a night out. The messenger pouch is P1,950 and the stio folio is P2,150.



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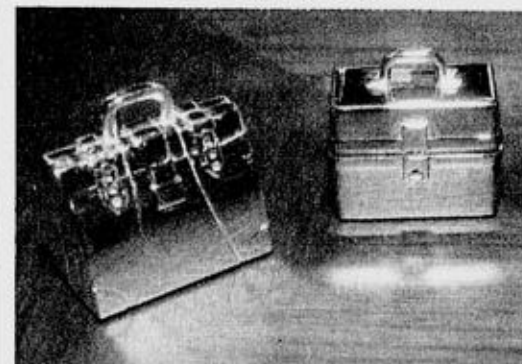
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Vigan ceramics, furniture competitive in Euro market

SAN FERNANDO City—Ceramics, bamboo products and wood furniture of Vigan City in Ilocos Sur could pass European standards and may penetrate the European market. Florante Leal, DTI director for Ilocos, said Corazon Zaalberg, foreign attaché of The Netherlands, made the evaluation after a recent inspection of various industries in the Ilocos region.

Zaalberg was in the Ilocos to assess the viability of exporting local products to Europe, with special attention to bamboo products. The Netherlands is funding various bamboo development projects in the country, Leal said.

He said Zaalberg's visit was significant to the development of different small and medium enterprises in the Ilocos.

He said the visit provided manufacturers and exporters insights on the intricacies of European imports in terms of environmental, social and health standards.

Leal said Zaalberg also recommended further improvement of the quality of Ilocos' loom woven products like blankets and its processed food, which are potential dollar earners.

Zaalberg's consultation visit in the Ilocos gave her inputs to enable the Netherlands government to determine the level of assistance it will extend to his agency and their clientele, according to Leal.

He said the assistance, which would come in forms of training, missions and other promotional activities, is expected to contribute to the efforts of making Ilocos products globally competitive and to enable the country get a share of the European market. *Peter La. Julian, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

VIGAN products may soon hit Europe.





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- Radio Production Specialist** - Degree in Broadcasting or related courses, can operate various sound track recording and produce radio programs, highly creative and innovative.
- Training Specialist** - Degree in Development Communication or Mass Communication, excellent communication and writing skills, can conduct training and prepare training modules, must be willing to travel extensively in Palawan, 2 years relevant work experience.
- Media Coordinator** - Degree in Mass Communication, excellent communication and writing skills, outgoing and dynamic personality, must be willing to travel and can work with minimum supervision, relevant work experience.
- Publication Specialist/Editor** - Degree in Journalism, Mass Comm or English Comm Arts, excellent writing skills, creative, has keen eyes for details and must have relevant working experience in publication.
- Copywriters** - Bachelor's Degree in Journalism, Mass Comm, excellent writing skills, creative, can popularize technical reports and must have relevant working experience in publication.
- Graphic Artist** - Graduate of BS Fine Arts, Graphic Design or related course; proficient with Desktop Publishing Software (Photoshop, Illustrator, Coreldraw, Pagemaker, Freehand, etc.); creative, has keen eyes for details, relevant working experience in publication.
- Web Publisher/Intranet Technician** - Degree in Computer Science or related courses, proficient in web publishing softwares (Macromedia Dreamweaver, Photoshop, Imageready, Coreldraw, etc.) Creative, with technical knowledge on intranet protocols and administration.

Compensation: Competitive basic salary and allowances, 13th Month pay, Medical Insurance / leaves, Plus Others.

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San Roque Power Corporation

San Roque Power Corporation is seeking the contractual services of qualified operating and maintenance personnel throughout 2002 to assist in the startup and testing of the San Roque Multipurpose Project.

Qualified residents of the affected municipalities and provinces will receive priority in hiring. Upon completion of startup and testing in late December 2002, SRPC will operate and maintain the SRMP for a period of 25 years. Contract startup and test personnel who perform well will be offered long-term positions with SRPC.

The SRMP will produce 345 MW of peaking power, irrigate up to 87,000 hectares of prime farmlands, enhance downstream water quality and greatly reduce flooding in Pangasinan. Its primary feature is a 200-m-high, 1.2-km-long dam spanning the municipalities of San Manuel and San Nicolas, Pangasinan, nearly 200 km north of Metro Manila.

The SRMP dam impounds a reservoir extending into the municipality of Itogon, Benguet and is protected by a gated spillway. Wet season flows are stored for later release via water turbines to generate power and irrigate crops.

SRPC is seeking qualified applicants for the position:

ELECTRONIC SYSTEMS TECHNICIAN

This is full-time salaried position based on 40 hours per week, however, the SRMP will operate seven days per week, 24 hours per day. Hence, extended work hours and varied shifts, including weekend and holiday work and "On-call" status, will be required of personnel. Applicants must maintain a Philippine driver's license.

Applicants must be physically fit individuals who are able to work on their feet for extended periods, climb stairs and

ladders, work in confined spaces and lift heavy weights. Protective equipment must be worn while working in the Plant. Work with and around chemicals or hazardous materials occasionally will be necessary.

Excellent oral and written communication skills in English are mandatory, as well as good computer skills, including e-mail communications, spreadsheets, word processing, Auto-cad, etc.

ELECTRONIC SYSTEMS TECHNICIAN

Reports to the Plant Engineer. Responsible for all electrical/electronic systems in the powerhouse and appurtenant facilities, including excitation systems, protective & control relays, manual & PLC-based control systems, the SCADA system, and all sensors, transducers and feedback devices. Support the preventative/predictive maintenance program.

Provide technical support for the plant control system, computer network resources, telecommunication systems (PBX, fiber-optic equipment, VHF/microwave radios) and security system. Prepare engineering drawings, calculations and reports.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- ✓ Bachelors degree in electrical engineering or computer/information technology
- ✓ Licensed Professional Engineer
- ✓ Minimum of 5 years of experience, of which 3 involve full time technical support of computer/information technology systems in an industrial environment
- ✓ Familiarity with hydroelectric power equipment, systems, operations & maintenance
- ✓ High proficiency in a wide variety of software applications, including PLC ladder logic, communications systems, and common engineering/office programs
- ✓ High proficiency in interpreting predictive maintenance performance data, including vibration analysis, partial discharge and rotor air gap, transformer and equipment oil analysis, and motor signature analysis
- ✓ Advanced skills in understanding and interpreting O&M manuals, engineering reports and drawings
- ✓ Familiarity with power plant performance tracking and root cause failure analysis

Applicants should send a cover letter and a comprehensive resume to:

San Roque Power Corporation, PO Box SRMP, San Manuel 2438, Pangasinan.
 Only properly mailed applications will be considered.

WANTED: NURSES

TWO BIG HOSPITALS IN ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI, U.S.A.
 Hiring Nurses for **IMMIGRANT VISA**

- Registered Nurses
- With CGFNS Certificate
- Good, recent hospital work

Send or bring your credentials to:

JOB STATION COMPANY INC.

4300-B Emilia Street, Palanan, Makati
 or call: (02) 551-8495; 551-9406
 text or call: 0919-807-5308

YOUR CREDENTIALS SHOULD INCLUDE:

- Resumé with Detailed Job Description • CGFNS Certificate •
- TOEFL, TSE, NCLEX (if available) • PRC ID and Board Rating •
- Transcript of Records • BSN Diploma • Birth Certificate • Four 2x2 Pictures •

A progressive civil society organization based in Northern Mindanao, is in search of staff for its Rural Development Programs in BUKIDNON.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- ✓ Male or female
- ✓ Minimum of 3 years work experience
- ✓ 26 to 32 years of age
- ✓ Agriculture or Social Work major, an advantage
- ✓ Speaks Cebuano and has excellent command of the English language
- ✓ Experience in development work, a plus but not a must
- ✓ Willing to work irregular and long hours
- ✓ Willing to learn, computer literate
- ✓ Willing to undergo extensive apprenticeship training from 6 to 9 months
- ✓ Can drive motorcycle and possess at least a non-professional driver's license
- ✓ Willing to be stationed in Northern Mindanao, Misamis Occidental/Misamis Oriental

Willing applicants must submit their Resumé, Transcript of Records, and 1" x 1" ID photo not later than December 9, 2001 to:

LUZON Applicants:

HEKS Philippine Office
 Room 206 Partnership Center
 #58 C. Salvador Street
 Loyola Heights, Quezon City
 Telefax Nos.: (02) 436-3239; (02) 433-3978
 Email: heksphil@pacific.net.ph

VISAYAS and MINDANAO Applicants:

IPAR Office
 #01-05 Florencio Fe Street, Heights
 Malaybalay City, Bukidnon
 Tel. Nos.: (088) 813-3689 or (088) 221-3716
 Cell No.: 0917-914-2191
 Email: iparheks@mozcom.com

Or

IPAR Office
 Olan Compound
 Zone 11, Upper Tibasak, Macasandig
 Cagayan de Oro City 9000

URGENTLY NEEDED!

THE SQUARE RESTAURANT COMPANY IN KUWAIT
 Accreditation # 66771

CHEF Salary \$800 (negotiable)

Asst. CHEF

COOKS

WAITERS and WAITRESS

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

GRAPHIC DESIGNER

INTERIOR DESIGNER

FLORIST Salary \$600 (negotiable)

Asst. FLORIST

All candidates must be graduates, with min. 3 to 5 yrs. Experience in their field, below 35 years old, min. 5'2" in height, with pleasing personality and can speak, read and understand English.

Salary negotiable (base on qualification), free accommodation, airfare and local transport to all qualified applicants.

SEAGULL GENERAL TRADING COMPANY

Accreditation # 66769

ENGINEER (Aluminum Fabricator)

ALUMINUM Fabricator and Installer

Must have min. 3 years of experience in European aluminum systems, can speak and read English, with driving knowledge

LABUAR GENERAL TRADING AND CONTRACTING COMPANY

Accreditation # 66770

PAINTER (Technique)

Salary \$600

Must have min. 2 years of experience, can speak and read English

All applicants must apply personally and bring two sets of the ff: Resumé, NBI clearance, Diploma, Cert. of Employment/Training, 2x2 picture, Passport copy, original passport & other credentials to:



INTERNATIONAL MANPOWER SERVICES SPECIALIST

POEA LIC.# 229-LB-070601-NL

109 E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave., Ugon, Pasig City / Tel. Nos. 6872503 / 6873252

No fees to be collected*Mag-ingat sa ilegal recruiters*This ad is allowed under MC-2.

Auto/Motorcycle Spare Parts

MARKETING REPRESENTATIVE

1. At least 3 years of experience in the field of Importation, Wholesale or Distributor.
2. Can speak Chinese or Fukuense.
3. Can operate independently.
4. Preferably female.

Rm. 511, TMBC Building Ayala Avenue,
 Makati City



And, we hope that you won't mind it if we gave you your own dollar bank account -- where we'll deposit all your profits e-v-e-r-y Friday. 'That okay with you?

IMAGINE yourself running a dollar-earning part/full time BUSINESS from your home -- with NO paperwork, NO employees, NO risks -- backed by top int'l couriers and internet-ready banks -- that allows you to transact business nationwide and internationally (i.e. Hong Kong) ...all from your home.

FREE BRIEFING on NOV. 26 (Monday) at 6:00 pm OR 7:30 pm SHARP

at the Asian Institute of Management (AIM), Paseo de Roxas, Makati City (fronting Greenbelt Mall). **CLIP AND BRING THIS AD.**

NOTE: Telephone inquiries will NOT be entertained by AIM.

PROVINCIAL INQUIRIES EMAIL <pinoyecommerce@yahoo.com> TEXT INQUIRIES (0917)2707140



Republic of the Philippines
BOARD OF INVESTMENTS
 Industry & Investments Building
 385 Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue, Makati City

The prime promotional agency of investments in the Philippines is in need of professionals in the field of:

AGRI-BUSINESS ECONOMICS ENGINEERING MARKETING

Qualifications:

At least one year technical work experience
 Honor graduates (PD 907) from reputable schools preferred
 Candidates with MS, MA or MBA is an advantage

Requirements:

Application letter, comprehensive resumé, 2x2 colored picture, transcript of records, diploma and other certificates that will support resumé.

Applications will be accepted until 03 December 2001
 Human Resource Division, Administration Department



LEGEND INTERNATIONAL RESORTS LIMITED

A prestigious casino/hotel located at Subic Bay Freeport Zone is currently in need of qualified applicants to fill-up the following vacancies:

VIP SERVICES COORDINATORS

Qualified applicants will be tasked to liaise with various hotel departments and to provide service that is uniquely LIRL.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- College graduate of any course;
- At least two (2) years experience in customer service;
- With excellent written and oral communication skills;
- Fluent in Mandarin, Nihongo or Korean language;
- Strong interpersonal skills;
- Patient and flexible;
- Prepared to work overtime when required.

BOILER TECHNICIAN

Operates and maintain boilers, troubleshoots electrical problems and other related jobs; inspects and makes minor repairs necessary to keep all equipment and/or items installed in good working condition.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Preferably with Occupational Safety and Health Training;
- At least three (3) years related work experience;
- Must be able to read plans and shop drawings;
- Knowledgeable in repair and maintenance of 100 BHP boiler machines and related equipment.

Residents of Olongapo, Zambales, Bataan, Pampanga and/or other areas in Central Luzon are preferred. Interested applicants may send/submit their resumes/bio-data with supporting documents and recent 2x2 photo to:

LEGEND INTERNATIONAL RESORTS LIMITED

Recruitment & Training Office
Second Floor, Oak Building, Legenda Suites, Cubi Point
Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Olongapo City
Fax No. (02) 813-5670; E-mail: slrchr@svisp.com

SEND APPLICATIONS ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2001

WANTED FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

by a leading multinational Japanese trading firm
ITOCHU Corporation
(formerly C. Itoh & Co. Ltd.)

JUNIOR OFFICER - SALES / MARKETING

- 1) 4-year college degree holder
- 2) speaks a third language, preferably Chinese (Fookien, Mandarin)
- 3) willing to do local travel, and eventually abroad
- 4) maximum age of 27 years old, with keen business sense
- 5) preferably with at least a year's sales / marketing exposure from the Plastics Industry

Fresh graduates may also apply. Please send your resume with transcript of record or copy of grades plus photo to:

ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT
MCC P.O. 2847
Makati 1299

or e-mail: baladad-j@mn1.itochu.co.jp

A Company engaged in marketing an Environmental Cleaning Product to Institutional, Industrial and Retail is in need of:

SALES and MARKETING MANAGER

Male/Female, 26 to 40 years old, college graduate
Planning, organizing, leading and budgeting
Proficient in oral and written communication, team player
Assertive, with 3 years experience in sales

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

Male/Female, 21 to 30 years old
College graduate, with 2 years experience in sales
Hardworking, flexible, self-motivated

Interviews will be conducted on November 26 to 29, 2001 from 9 AM to 5 PM. Bring your comprehensive resume with 2x2 picture and apply personally at:

AMCI Enviro-Safe
5th Floor, Caltaya Building
235 Salcedo Street
Legaspi Village, Makati City

Look for: Azon Dikno or Janice Yaneza

We are a Family Sports Club
and we are in need of

RESTAURANT WAITERS

Qualifications

- ✓ must have at least six (6) months work experience as a waiter on other sports clubs or restaurants
- ✓ willing to work for more than 8 hrs.
- ✓ preferably college level
- ✓ at least 5'5" in height
- ✓ not more than 27 years old
- ✓ good moral character

Interested applicants may send or hand carried their resume at:

QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB, INC.

c/o Human Resources Department
E. Rodriguez Sr. Blvd., Quezon City
Tel No.: 7230091 to 99

(Please attached, on your resume, **certificate of employment** from previous employer. Applicants who will not meet the qualifications need not apply.)

A fashion accessory export company is in need of:

HEAD MERCHANDISER

• Female, 25-30 years old

DESIGNER/MERCHANDISER

- Female 23-30 yrs. old
- College grad. of clothing Tech. or a related merch. product design course.
- Minimum of 2 yrs. exp. in both merch. & product design preferably in an export company
- Is organized, systematic, multi-tasked and willing to work long hours
- Can communicate well in oral & written English

Mail or fax your resume w/ recent photo at:
834 Felipe Pike St., Bagong-Hog, Pasig City, 1600
Fax 671-1643

U.S. based company seeking positions for local office

Account Executives

- Articulate, Confident, Hardworking and Honest
- 18 years and older, College Graduate (preferred)
- Sales Experience (preferred)
- English speaking (preferred)
- Full or Part-time

Successful candidate will be offered competitive commissions, plus overrides
Contact Mrs. Dickinson: (02) 895-7693, (917) 845-1959

CAREER EMPOWERMENT

If you want CHANGE...Consider a Career With Us.

We are a newly established Group of Companies put together by visionary and revolutionary entrepreneurs who aimed to Empower Filipino Consumers through the power of Information Technology. We are seeking highly competent, dynamic and self-driven individuals who can be part of our fast growing team. We need professionals with strong leadership qualities, excellent organizational and Inter-personal communication skills, with pleasing personality and Impeccable integrity. Most importantly, we want people with good values who will work with us hand in hand to reach our goals and will work conscientiously for a CAUSE.

OPERATIONS/BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT/MARKETING

General Manager

Graduate of Business Administration with Masters Degree or has passed as a CPA. Highly motivated and can handle people of all levels. Must have at least 5 years work experience in a top management position. Preferably female, not more than 45 years old.

Regional Managers/Product Managers

Graduate of Economics, Marketing or any business course. Must possess good communication skills and can motivate people under his/her supervision. Must have at least 5 years work experience in a similar capacity. Male, not more than 45 years old.

Subscribers Development Manager

Graduate of Economics, Marketing or any business course. Must possess good communication skills and can motivate people under his/her supervision. Must have 2-3 years work experience in a similar capacity. Male/Female, not more than 40 years old.

Business Coordination Manager

Graduate of Economics, Marketing or any business course. Must possess good communication skills and can motivate people under his/her supervision. Must have 2-3 years work experience in a similar capacity. Male/Female, not more than 40 years old.

Planning and Research Development Officers

Graduate of Management/Economics, or any related course. With adept knowledge in research and data analysis. Must have at least 5 years work experience in planning and research. Willing to work long hours with minimum supervision. Male/Female, 25-35 years old.

System Integration Assistant

Graduate of any four-year course preferably Mass Communication or Business Administration. With at least 4 years work experience and must be adept in office procedures and administration. Proficient in Windows/Microsoft applications and can work under pressure. Willing to work long hours. Female, 25-30 years old.

Marketing Assistant

Graduate of Management, Marketing, Advertising or Mass Communication. Proficient in oral and written communication. With relevant work experience. Male/Female, 21-35 years old.

Corporate Presentors

Graduate of any four-year course preferably Mass Communication. Excellent in oral and written communication with relevant work experience. Good in Public Speaking. Computer literate, flexible, and can handle work under pressure. Willing to be assigned to do field works. Male/Female 21-35 years old.

Training Officers/Trainers

Graduate of any four-year course preferably Mass Communication. Education or any Business course. Excellent in oral and written communication. Good in Public Speaking. Highly computer literate, flexible and can handle work under pressure. Willing to be assigned anywhere in Metro Manila, provincial and/or depressed areas. Male/Female, 21-30 years old.

Business Coordinators

Graduate of any business course with 3-5 years sales and marketing experience. Proficient in oral and written communication. Computer literate, flexible and can handle work under pressure. Willing to do field works. Male/Female, 21-35 years old.

Customer Relations Staff

Graduate of Mass Communication or any related course. Preferably with relevant work experience in customer service and handling customer concerns. Must be computer literate and proficient in oral and written communication. Male/Female, 21-28 years old.

Interested applicants may personally apply or send thru mail their application letter, comprehensive resume, with 2 X 2 picture and transcript of records to:

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Programmers/Systems Analysts

Graduate of Computer Science/Computer Engineering/Electronics and Communications Engineering. With at least 3 years relevant work experience in the following applications - SQL Server 7 or 2000, Microsoft Access 2000 or XP Visual Basic, Internet Development, JAVA, ASP, Crystal Report Version 6, or Windows Operating System (1998 NT/2000 Professional). Knowledge in Database Administration and Computer Programming a major plus. Must be a team player and can work under pressure. Willing to work long hours. Male, not more than 27 years old.

Web Developers

Graduate of Computer Science or Computer Engineering. With at least 2-3 years extensive experience in web development using Microsoft Technologies: ASP, HS, BV Script; Access, SQL Server, Visual Interdev/ UltraDev. Preferably with strong knowledge in HTML and Java Script Hard coding as well as Cross-Browser Development. Must be a team player and can work under pressure. Willing to work long hours. Male, not more than 27 years old.

ACCOUNTING AND ADMINISTRATIVE

Accounting Assistants/Accounts Receivable Clerk/Credit and Collection Clerk

Graduate of Accountancy with at least 2-3 years relevant work experience. Highly-computer literate. Can meet deadlines and work under pressure. Willing to render overtime.

Administrative Assistant

Graduate of any four-year course with at least 2-3 years relevant work experience. Must be smart, assertive and organized. Can meet deadlines and work under pressure. Highly-computer literate with good typing skills.

EDITORIAL EDUCATION

Editorial Staff/Copywriter

Graduates of Journalism/Mass Communication/Communication Arts or any related course. Must be creative, with excellent writing skills, detail-oriented, resourceful and computer literate. Preferably with background in business administration and with relative work experience in publication. Male/Female, not more than 35 years old.

Account Manager

Graduate of Mass Communication, Communication Arts, Advertising or any related course. Preferably with relevant experience in advertising or its equivalent. Must have excellent oral and written communication skills and pleasing personality. Female, single, 22-28 years old.

Graphic Artist

Graduate of Fine Arts major in Advertising/Communications Arts or any related course. Proficient in desktop publishing and other graphic software (Photoshop, Illustrator, Pagemaker, Corel, Freehand, etc.). With impressive portfolio and at least 1-2 years experience preferably in an ad agency or its equivalent. Must be creative and deadline-oriented. Male/Female, 21-30 years old.

Technical Assistant

Graduate of Mass Communication or any business course. Excellent in oral and written communication, computer literate, preferably with relevant work experience. Must be smart and flexible with pleasing personality. Female, 21-23 years old, single.

Production Staff

Male, 20-28 years old, at least college level. Must be hardworking and flexible. willing to work long hours.

RISE E-COMMERCE SYSTEMS INC.

Human Resources Department
1908 Robinson Galleria Corporate Center, EDSA
corner Ortigas Avenue, Ortigas Complex, Quezon City
Tel. No.: (02) 437-1737/437-1737-4741



TAIAN (SUBIC) ELECTRIC, INC.

MACHINERY ENGINEERING SUPERVISOR

Male / 25-30 years of age / Preferably can speak Mandarin / With 2-3 years experience in tool & die making, knowledgeable in the maintenance & repair of all types of tools, dies, fixtures & inspection devices for Plastic Injection Machines / Must know how to check tools, dies & fixtures to blueprint or model / Responsible for production tooling, plant engineering & equipment maintenance.

Qualified applicants may send their comprehensive resume together with 2x2 pictures & other documents to Human Resource Section, Talian (Subic) Electric Inc. SBIP-Argonaout Hwy Cor. Braveheart St., SBFZ 2222 Tel. No. (047) 252-1668, 1669 Fax No. 252-1661 or thru SBMA Labor Center SBFZ 2222.

RNs, Immigrate to USA!

USA's largest Catholic hospital systems
Information and apply direct at:
<http://www.ascensionhealthnurse.org>

AMBITIOUS TECHNOLOGY & INTERNET SERVICE (Internet Service Provider)

MARKETING EXECUTIVE

- Marketing Graduate or Equivalent
 - Knowledge in Information Technology
 - Preferably with car
- Attractive Salary with Commission
Contact Remy Ching
808-3069 (Telefax)

A Filipino family is urgently looking for a stay-in therapist/SPED teacher to train a 3-year-old moderately autistic boy.

Must be flexible, patient & willing to learn

e-mail resume to hkjob@hotmail.com & state expected salary.

For further inquiries, text or call Elaine
0917-5400914

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

The country's leading newspaper
is looking for:

PERSONNEL ASSISTANT

- Graduate of Psychology or Behavioral Science
- At least 2 years related experience
- Knowledge of basic computer/office software operation

Mail your application letter, comprehensive resume and 1x1 ID photo to:

HR MANAGEMENT SERVICES HEAD
Philippine Daily Inquirer
Chino Roces Ave. (formerly Pasong Tamo)
Corner Yague and Mascarido Sts.,
Makati City

E-mail: recruitment@inquirer.com.ph

A US-based Multi-national company engaged in power generation is looking for experienced and highly skilled applicants to fill in the need for:

PURCHASING SUPERVISOR (1)

- Male or Female
- Has a four (4) year Business or Engineering related college degree or its equivalent
- With at least two (2) years of supervisory experience in plant purchasing and/or inventory control
- Demonstrates knowledge of standard and advanced purchasing and inventory procedures/policies
- Is proficient in the use of personal computers and related software application
- Has good background in importation transactions and contract evaluation

PURCHASER/BUYER (1)

- Male or Female
- Possesses a four-year college diploma, preferably an office management course, or its equivalent and has a minimum of two years experience in a purchasing position
- Is proficient in the usage of personal computers; experience with Microsoft software is essential
- Is familiar with the purchasing functions; has a general knowledge of standard purchasing and inventory procedures and policies
- Possesses a working knowledge of business English, spelling and arithmetic; office practices and procedures; and departmental rules and regulations

FIRE AND SAFETY COORDINATOR (1)

- Has a four-year college degree in Industrial Safety or Engineering, or equivalent
- Has at least five years experience in emergency preparedness such as High Rise rescue, fire fighting in industrial plant setting
- Is familiar with Basic presentation skills in a trainer capacity
- Has knowledge and holder of up-to-date training in First Aid, Emergency Care, Rescue and Transfer
- Is familiar with fire protection, suppression, detection extinguishment and control

Interested applicants may submit their comprehensive resume with contact numbers and most recent 2" x 2" photo to:

The Human Resources Department
P.O. Box 208
Quezon Capital Post Office
Luzon City, Quezon



GIA
THAILAND CAMPUS

Gemological Institute of America
Learn the principles of quality Jewelry Design
from the world's #1 gemological institute

Jewelry Design Class

Step-by-Step. Develop the skills needed to
create and illustrate designs for a variety of jewelry
in full color and fine detail

NO artistic training or experience required
Next Jewelry Design Class starts January 28, 2002

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giathai@ksc15.th.com www.giathailand.com



Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Quezon City

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The National Food Authority is inviting interested bidders to
participate in the bidding for the:

Supply, Delivery, Installation and Commissioning of two (2)
units diesel engine-driven electric power generating sets, 200
kVA, 3-phase, 230V for NFA sites in San Jose, Occidental
Mindoro and Pili, Camarines Sur.

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

BIDDING ACTIVITIES	DATE
Issuance of Pre-Qualification Forms	November 27-29, 2001
Deadline for Submission of	December 7, 2001
Accomplished Pre-Qualification Forms	
Issuance of Bid Documents to	December 7-11, 2001
Pre-qualified Bidders	
Pre-Bidding Conference	December 12, 2001 @ 10:00 a.m.
Submission and Opening of Bids	December 14, 2001 @ 10:00 a.m.

The pre-bidding conference, and the submission and opening of
bids shall be held at the NFA Board Room, 10th Floor, Matimyas
Bldg., 101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City, in the presence of
participating bidders and a representative of the Commission on Audit
(COA).

Pre-qualification Forms may be secured from the NFA Pre-
Qualification, Bids and Awards Committee (NFA-PBAC)
Secretariat at the Office of the Deputy Administrator for Finance
and Administration, 7th Floor, Matimyas Bldg., 101 E. Rodriguez
Sr. Avenue, Quezon City, upon presentation of an official receipt
of payment of a non-refundable fee of Php 500.00.

Only qualified suppliers and/or their authorized representatives
may secure bid documents and to attend the pre-bidding
conference and the bidding proper. Bid documents may only be
secured from the NFA PBAC Secretariat, 7th Floor, Matimyas
Bldg., 101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City, upon
presentation of the pre-qualification letter issued by NFA-PBAC,
and the official receipt of payment of a non-refundable fee of Php
500.00 for the bid forms.

NFA reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, to waive
any informalities therein, and to accept such bids or to award to any
supplier whose bid is considered most advantageous to the NFA.

(Sgd.) ATTY. MICHAEL ANGELO G. PADERANGA
Deputy Administrator and Chairman, PBAC

(PDI - Nov. 25, 26 & 27, 2001)



U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

DISPOSAL SALE

USAID/Manila will conduct a Sealed Bid Sale of used office
and residential furniture/equipment, appliances, computer
equipment and 25KVA O'Brien Generator sets on an "AS IS-
WHERE IS" basis.

All items can be inspected on November 26-28, 2001 from
8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at **USAID
Warehouse, 2345 Aurora Boulevard, (formerly Pasong Tamo
Street), Pasay City.** Bid forms are available at the site.
Submission of bids and cash deposits (20% of the total bid)
can be done at the site during the sale. Full payment and bid
deposit refunds will be on November 29, 2001 at 8:00 a.m. to
11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the USAID/Cashier,
8th Floor, PNB Financial Center, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City.

For further information and lot descriptions, please call Mr.
Romeo S. Arquisola and Mr. Alfredo G. Daluz at Tel. Nos. 831-
2271, 514-4229, 514-4234 and 514-4236.

(PDI - Nov. 24 & 25, 2001)



INQUIRER
RiViA
By BONG BARRAMEDA

Welcome rug

- Q.** Who began the practice of rolling out the red carpet to welcome
important people?
- A.** By some accounts, when an important visitor was received at a hotel
or other public place, a special red carpet was traditionally unrolled at
the entrance. But since the term dates only from the 1930s, it may
have a more specific source: the red carpet that led passengers to the
Twentieth Century Limited, for many years the elite train between
New York and Chicago, and probably the best-known train in the
United States. The Twentieth Century was a first-class Pullman (a
railroad car with small private rooms or seats that can be made up into
berths for sleeping, named for its inventor, George Pullman) and both
its accommodations and its dining-car menus were considered the
height of luxury.

Take A Tip. Carpet troubleshooting: **mud**—sprinkle cornstarch on damp
spot, give the cornstarch at least 15 minutes to soak up the mud, then vacuum up and
away; **chewing gum**—press ice cubes until it becomes brittle and breaks off, then use
a spot remover to vanquish last traces; **glue**—loosen by saturating the spot with a
cloth soaked in vinegar; **ballpoint ink marks**—saturate the spot with hairspray, allow
to dry, then brush lightly with a solution of water and vinegar.

Past Forward. This week in 1963: The world was in mourning at the
news that US President John F. Kennedy had been shot and killed (November 22)
in Dallas, Texas. The 46-year-old President and Mrs. Jacqueline Kennedy were in Texas,
on the latest leg of a tour of the southern states to gather support for the Democratic
Party. The fatal shooting occurred as the presidential motorcade swept through Dealey
Plaza in downtown Dallas.

WORD WATCH

Luksa : from the Sanskrit *ruksha*, 'unkempt (as one in mourning).'

PDI - November 25, 2001

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ALLNURSES

**(IHS) Integrated Health Services, the industry leader
in post-medical care with 350 facilities across
the United States is offering**

FLY NOW - PAY LATER PROGRAM

To All Qualified Registered Nurses

We provide:

- ☒ Processing of Immigrant Visa
- ☒ Full-time RN position with the petitioner
- ☒ Airfare to the U.S.
- ☒ Apartment rental for 60 days plus initial provisions

We will be conducting FREE orientation/interviews in:

Cebu City (Dec. 13-15) **Ormoc City** (Dec. 19)
Tagbilaran City (Dec. 17) **Davao City** (Dec. 21-22)
Dumaguete City (Dec. 18) **General Santos City** (Dec. 26)

For more information:

text: (0919) 845-3481
(0919) 618-3047
call: (02) 455-3856, 455-4358

or e-mail us at:

yourcareerlink@yahoo.com
louiseoco@yahoo.com
lori.schultz@ihs-inc.com

Just bring two (2) clear copies of the following requirements:

1. CGFNS Certificate*
2. B.S.N. Diploma
3. PRC License
4. Picture page from Passport
5. Board Exam Rating
6. Transcript of Records
7. Resumé with 2x2 pictures
8. Work Certificates

* Those who are just waiting for their CGFNS result may also apply.



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
PROCUREMENT & LOGISTICS SERVICE
SAN LAZARO COMPOUND
RIZAL AVENUE, STA. CRUZ
MANILA, PHILIPPINES
TEL. NO. 711-6831

Invitation for Bids

Early Childhood Development Project
Supply and Delivery of Cold Chain Equipment
IFB No. WB-ECD-01-08-2002

1. The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from the
International Bank for Reconstruction and Development toward the cost
of Early Childhood Development Project, and it intends to apply part of
the proceeds of this loan to payments under the contract for which this
invitation for bids is issued.
2. The Department of Health now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders
for the supply and delivery of various cold chain equipment.

Items	Unit	Quantity
a. Ice lined Refrigerator 160-200 Liter	set	5 sets
b. Vaccine Cold Box	set	213 sets
c. Domestic Refrigerators 8 cu. ft.	set	30 sets

3. Bidding will be conducted through the International Competitive Bidding
procedures specified in the World Bank's Guidelines: Procurement under
IBRD Loans and IDA Credits, and is open to all bidders from eligible source
countries as defined in the Guidelines.
4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the
Procurement and Logistics Service and inspect the bidding documents
at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday.

Procurement and Logistics Service
Department of Health
San Lazaro Compound
Sta. Cruz, Manila
Philippines
Tel. No. (632) 711-6831
Telefax No. (632) 711-6712

5. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested
bidders on the submission of a written application to the address above
and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Five Thousand Pesos (Php
5,000) or US\$250 including air courier for foreign bidders. The method of
payment will be cash, or bank draft. Information including names of
potential bidders and person's contact telephone and facsimile numbers,
cable, e-mail and mailing address should be provided in the application to
facilitate communications during the bidding process.
6. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before 9:00 a.m. on
January 8, 2002. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of not
less than 2.5% of total bid. Late bids will be rejected outright and returned
unopened to the bidder.
7. Prior to bid opening, a pre-bidding conference will be held at the following
address at 9:00 a.m. on December 11, 2001.

Multi-Media Conference Room
Bldg. # 18, Department of Health
San Lazaro Compound
Sta. Cruz, Manila
Philippines
8. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who
choose to attend at the address above at 9:01 a.m. on January 8, 2002.
9. The Department of Health reserves the right to reject any or all bids without
disclosing any reason, to waive any minor defects or informalities and to
accept such bids as may be considered advantageous to DOH.

By the authority of the Secretary of Health:

(Sgd.) ZENAIDA O. LUDOVIC, MD, MPH, CESO II
Assistant Secretary
Chairperson, Central Office Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - Nov. 21 & 25, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF BENGUET
La Trinidad
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

INVITATION TO BID

The Province of Benguet, thru its PBAC, shall accept sealed bids not later than 2:00 PM on
January 03, 2002 at the Office of the Provincial Governor, Conference Room, from contractors who were
qualified by the Provincial PBAC and classified as "medium" by the Inter-agency Committee and who
have SUBMITTED THEIR RENEWAL OF LICENSE FOR THE CURRENT YEAR AND OTHER RELATED
DOCUMENTS DULY VALIDATED BY THE PROVINCIAL PBAC for the prosecution of the following
infrastructure projects:

1. Rehabilitation of Bokig — Belac Farm to Market Road at Pasdong, Atok, Benguet, AAE
P7,638,542.98
2. Rehabilitation of Junction Amgaleggy — Sacalalan Farm to Market Road at Amgaleggy,
Buguey, Benguet, AAE P5,606,336.41
3. Rehabilitation of Mongio — Bayabas Farm to Market Road at Bayabas, Sablan, Benguet,
AAE P9,413,497.83

Cost of Bid forms/project: P500

Bidder's compliance with filing schedule is enjoined:

1. Filing of letter of intent with PBAC Secretariat December 17-19, 2001
2. Issuance of bid forms, plans and specs December 17-20, 2001
3. Pre-bid conference December 20, 2001
4. Submission of bids at Provincial Governor's Office January 3, 2002
(8:00AM-2:00PM)
5. Opening of Bids January 3, 2002
(2:00 PM)

Only the licensees with approved letter of intent by the PBAC chairman will be issued bid forms and
shall personally sign the registry at the registry at the time of filing. SPAs will not be honored.

The Provincial Government of Benguet, thru its PBAC, reserves the right to reject any or all of the
bids, waive any defects contained therein and to award the contract to the contractor whose bids, as
evaluated, is most advantageous to the government.

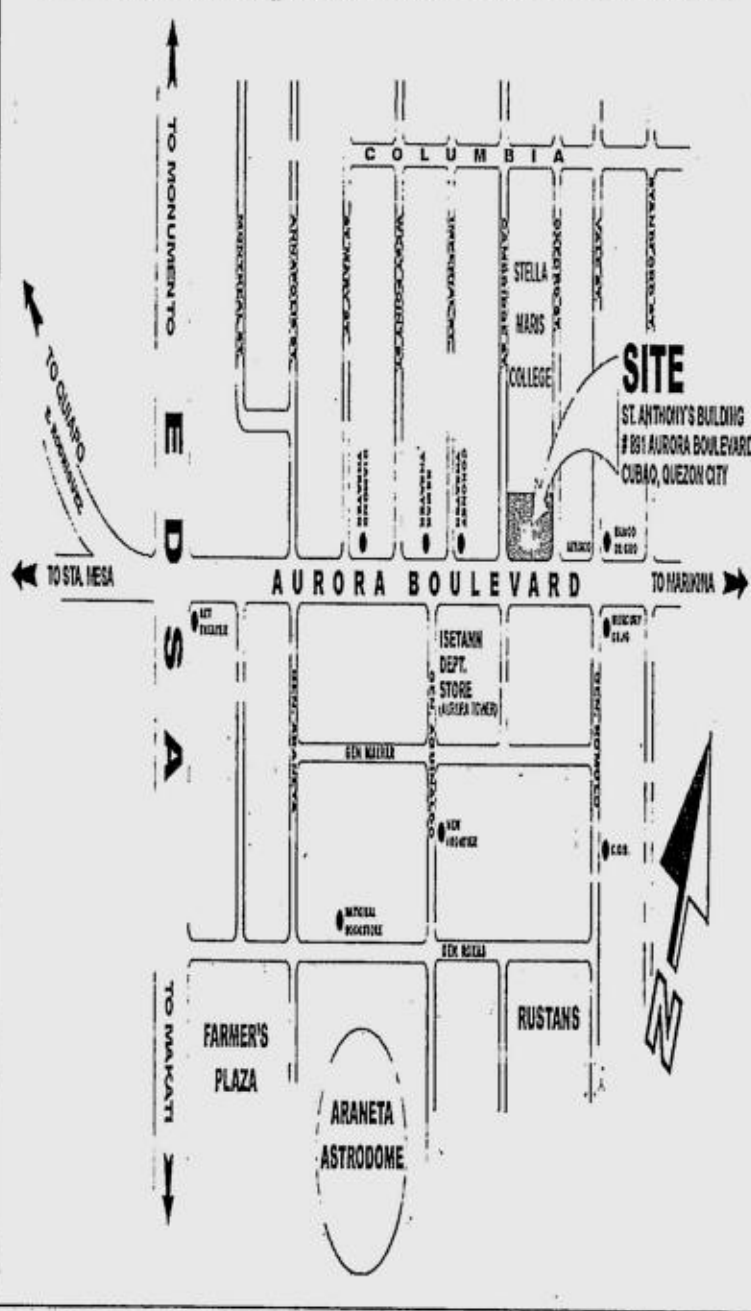
Publications: November 25, 2001, December 2 & 9, 2001

(Sgd.) RAUL M. MOLINTAS
Provincial Governor &
PBAC Chairman

(PDI - Nov. 25, Dec. 2 & 9, 2001)

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OBITUARIES

We, the family of the late

JOSEFINA PAKINGAN CRUZ

November 11, 1918 - November 5, 2001

wish to convey our sincerest gratitude and appreciation to our relatives, friends, and all those who sent condolences, flowers, donations offered Masses and prayers, called from abroad, attended the funeral rites and helped and comforted us in so many ways during our time of bereavement.

May God grant you abundant blessings for your thoughtfulness and generosity.

Thank you very much.

JOSE PAZ

(1911-2001)

President of
SIMPLEX INDUSTRIAL CORPORATION

*Peacefully joined his Creator
 last November 12, 2001.*

His loving wife, children, grandchildren & relatives express their grateful appreciation for all who have touched "ANGKONG'S" life & selflessly offered their prayers & services and for those who came & sympathized to his interment last November 18, 2001.

"THANK YOU"

Eternal life

will
 swallow up
 that which
 can die.
 God made
 us for this
 very
 reason and
 He has
 given us
 the Spirit
 as a
 guarantee
 that we will
 live again.

2 Cor. 5:4-5

Our Dearly Beloved

Brig. Gen. ANDRES C. MANIPULA, AFP (Ret.)

Peacefully joined our Lord on November 22, 2001 at the age of 73.

His loving wife Virgie; children Andres, Nikki & Farnel, and Inaki and Bubut; grandchildren Nieka, Miggy and Gabby request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Our Lady of Peace Chapel, JUSMAG Housing Area, Fort Bonifacio, Makati City. Interment will be on Sunday, November 25, 2001, 12 noon at the Libingan ng mga Bayani after the 10:00 AM Mass at the Chapel.

"My soul finds rest to God alone from Him comes my salvation." Psalm 62:2

Our Dearly Beloved Sister

VIRGINIA POLINTAN-TANGO

Peacefully joined the Creator on November 23, 2001 at the age of 42.

Her loving husband Rick; daughter Lauren; mother Daisy; sisters and brothers Patricia, Veronica, Josefino and Jose; other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

CONSORCIA MARIANO VALMONTE

Joined her Creator on November 23, 2001 at the age of 74.

Her bereaved husband VIVENCIO; children VICTORIA and ROBERTO CINCO, VERONICA and RAUL IGNACIO, VILMARIE and RASFELIN HINGADA; grandchildren MARY JOYCE, JOHN PAOLO, JUSTINE MARK, MITZI LOIS, JANINA, VANESSA; brothers, sisters, nephews, nieces, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at 138 Concepcion St., Morning Breeze, Caloocan City.

Cremation will be on Tuesday, November 27, 2001 after the Requiem Mass at 8:00 AM.

Teresita "Tessie" Ladrangan Abesamis

(Born August 19, 1949)

Peacefully joined our Lord on November 23, 2001.

A loving wife to Jimmy; a doting mother to James and Geelah; a beloved daughter to Teddy and Crisanta; an endearing elder sister to Nancy, Diana, Maribel, Dahlee, Paul, Christine Jean and the late Cora.

She now rests at the Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels, Sucat Road, Parañaque City.

Interment will be on Thursday, November 29, 2001, 9 a.m. at the Gray Line Memorial Park in Bulaon, San Fernando, Pampanga after the 8 a.m. Mass at the Bulaon Parish.

CANDIDA SALCEDO SANTOS

(Dading)

of Pasay City

Peacefully joined our Lord on November 23, 2001 at the age of 81.

Her beloved husband Tom Sr. (†); children Tet & Rene, Jun & Corito; grandchildren Justin, Deepee & Ramon, Thirby, Nikki; great grandchildren Luis; brothers & sisters, together with relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Funeraria Malaya, Libertad St., Pasay City. Interment will be on Tuesday, November 27, 2001 after the 1:00 p.m. Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church, F.B. Harrison, Pasay City.

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KALAW

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635-0219, 635-0220

Our Dearly Beloved Papa ISAURO M. LAZARO

*Peacefully joined our Lord on November 21, 2001
 at the age of 85.*

He is survived by his loving wife Alejandra; sons Benjamin, Dionisio & Paul; daughter Madeline; son-in-law John Austin; daughters-in-law Nerisse & Julie; grandchildren Jorel, Nikki, Tracy & David. The family requests the pious readers to pray for the repose of his eternal soul.

His remains lie in state at their residence at 57 Don Severo Hernando Avenue, Laoag City.

Interment will be at the Maharlika Memorial Garden on Thursday, November 29, 2001 after the 10:00 a.m. Mass at the St. William Cathedral, Laoag City.

Our Tatay has passed on to the Lord's place...

We are pained by the loss.
 Yet take comfort in His promise of everlasting life.

Esteban "Enginas" Dimaano

(Born in Lipa City - September 29, 1930 - November 23, 2001)

Interment will be on November 27,
 after an afternoon mass at the Lipa Cathedral.

Please include him in your prayers.

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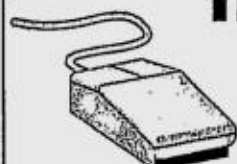
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 6:00 PM Christmas Party
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NOTICE TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

The Centralized Procurement Committee-Member Agencies, this Department, invites prospective bidders to pre-qualify and bid for the purchase of vehicle for Office of Special Concern requirements.

1 unit Sports Utility Vehicle
 1 unit Van Vehicle

Pre-qualification forms can be secured from Celso R. Aguilar, Secretary, DTI-MA-CPC, General Services Division, Ground Floor, Trade and Industry Building, 361 Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue, Makati City, Metro Manila.

Pre-bidding Conference will be held on 29 November 2001, 2:30 PM DTI Bldg., Ground Floor, 361 Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue, Makati City.

For details on the requirements please contact Ms. Dita M. Maralit, Director, OSC, Department of Trade and Industry at Tel. No. 890-5123/897-1718.

THE COMMITTEE RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS AND WAIVE ANY DEFECT THEREIN.

(Sgd.) MARIA CRISTINA LAPUZ
 Acting Chairman, DTI-MA-CPC

(PDI - Nov. 25, 2001)

Notice is given that Stock Certificates issued to Conrado Sanchez, Jr. covering Centro Escolar University shares described below have been lost.

Stock Certificate No.	Issued On	No. of Shares
00002416	19 October 1984	18,000
00002417	19 October 1984	12,200
00004373	31 August 1988	15,100
00005405	15 March 1994	29,400
00006437	12 June 1995	149,400
00007727	05 February 1998	338,100
Total		580,200

If no contest received, new certificates will be issued.
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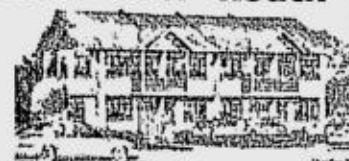
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WEEKEND farmers Alby Xerez-Burgos and wife Maricar

Haven for weekend farmers

BY ALEX Y. VERGARA
PHOTOS BY BETOY JOHNSON

VERDANT hills, pristine air, winding roads and, yes, flowing traffic. Such pleasant scenes make country living such a desirable alternative to a dreadful urban existence. Farm-loving city dwellers with neither the time nor the expertise to farm can soon indulge in a new weekend pastime and, with plenty of luck and a little hard work, earn money for their efforts.

Property developer Landco Pacific, through its latest project billed as Leisure Farms, provides the weekend farmer with everything he or she may need to make farming such a pleasurable and productive endeavor. The 116-hectare property, with sweeping vistas of Taal Lake to the east and Balayan Bay to the west, is located on Diokno Highway in Lemery, Batangas.

Aside from land, Leisure Farms offers such farming staples as seeds, tools and farm management services. Everything else is optional except for the land. "They can even enter into a contract-growing arrangement with us," says project director Alby Xerez-Burgos. Such an arrangement includes labor, technology and, best of all, marketing assistance. Not unskilled labor, mind you, but trained groups made up mostly of people living in the area.

Leisure Farms, in its effort to give something back to the community, has made it a point to hire and train people living in nearby barangays.

Take your pick

"Whatever farming method they choose," says farm manager Eric Matic, "owners are assured of getting trained farmhands." They can select either conventional, organic or a combination of both methods to grow their crops.

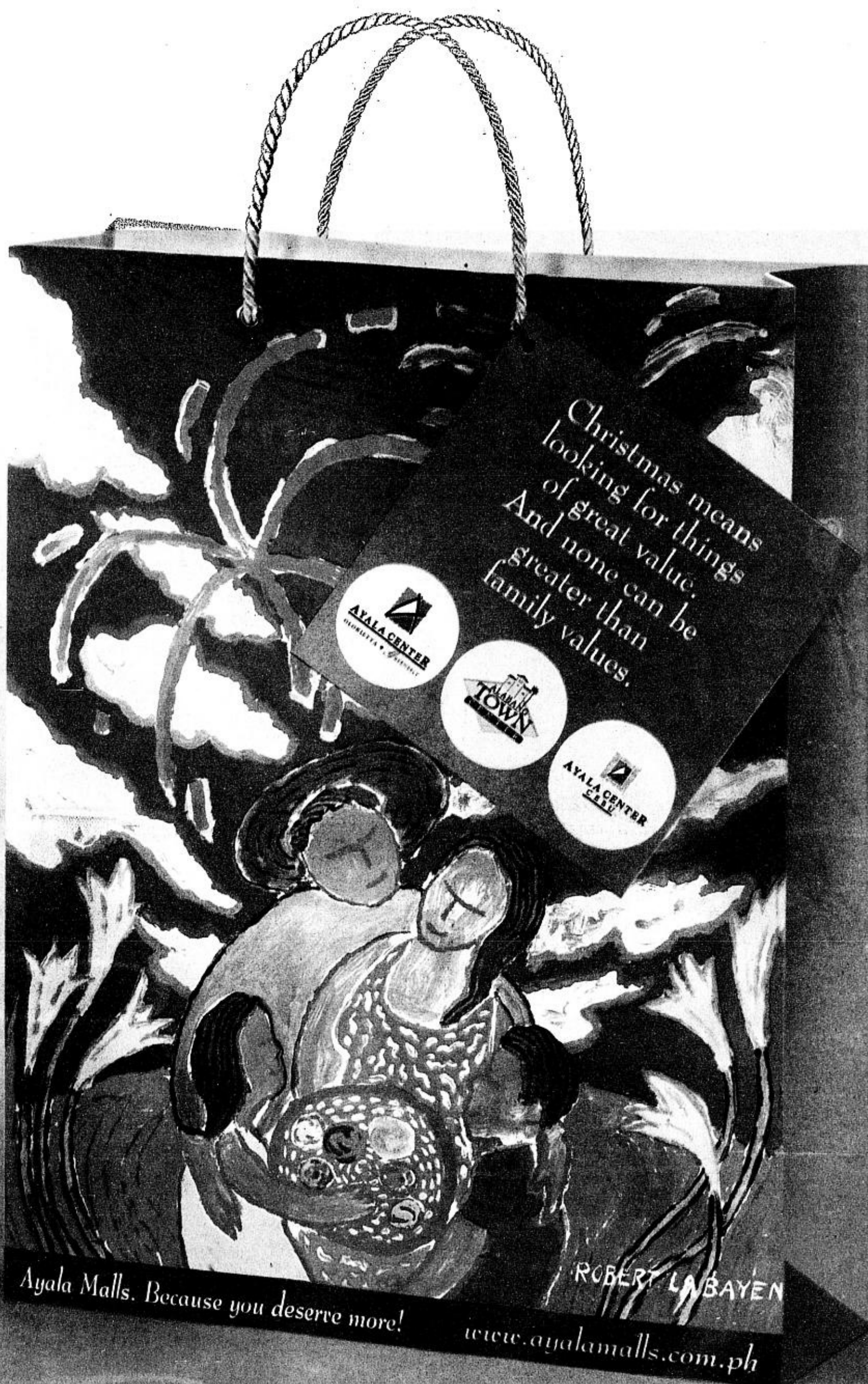
To guide the development, Leisure Farms has tapped the expertise of Zac Sarian, Toto Barcelona of Harbest Inc., Pam Henares of Buro-Buro Farms and Jacqueline Alleje of the Organic Producers and Traders Association. They have been named to the board of advisers.

Landowners need not eat their own produce until it comes out of their ears. They could ask for Leisure Farms' assistance in marketing their goods. The developer has set aside 13.5 hectares for an agro-tourism park, which now includes demo farms using various farming methods, a town center and a farmers' market.

Better yet, they could barter or share their harvest with friends and relatives. "A typical hobby farmer isn't in it for the money," says Xerez-Burgos. "Most of them find joy in sharing their produce with others. You should see the pride in their faces during a good harvest."

To prove that the system works, a section of the demo farm has been cleared of coconut trees and now teems with a profusion of "high value" crops such as lettuce, pechay, kangkong, ore-

HAVEN/p.C6



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Readers' varied reactions to consumer issues

WE appreciate the readers' diverse reactions to our column item last week on dubious investment schemes. It is unfortunate, however, that one particular reader didn't like our writing about all multilevel marketing schemes that evolved from pyramiding schemes, which are fraudulent.

The reader commented: "The problem with your article is that it is based on generalizations and poor research. I am just alarmed that your article even got published because it is a real disservice not only to those who may have no knowledge about illegal pyramids and legal multilevel marketing, but also to those who are already engaged in legal schemes/companies."

"Many media/print practitioners who try to knock off illegal pyramids and multilevel marketing fall into the trap of judging something they really do not have sufficient knowledge of."

THE CONSUMER



Marietta Velasco Giron

Just to set the records straight, we specifically referred ONLY to those multilevel marketing schemes that emerged from the pyramid scam, which is illegal under Philippine laws. Moreover, the issues raised in our column came from the report "Multilevel Marketing (Mlm)—A Guide for Consumers and Investors," released by Uptrend Business Center (e-mail address: uptrend@pacific.net.ph).

For the many folks who have asked us information about multilevel marketing enterprises they have invested in, or about to join, please send your questions to the Complaints and Enforcement Department of the Securities and Exchange Commission. The address is SEC Building, Edsa, Mandaluyong City. You will get speedy response if you address your letters directly to CED officer in charge, lawyer Tomas Syquia.

Considering the widespread operation of multilevel marketing activities, both legal and otherwise, the Department of Trade and Industry should create an agency that is specifically assigned to everything and anything that has to do with multilevel marketing. We realized from the various inquiries we are getting that consumers don't know where to go for assistance on information, guidance, legal matters and complaints.

Expert shares tips

Laurence Dacanay, with e-mail address fournotes@yahoo.com, said he has "spent so much time studying multilevel marketing and illegal pyramids."

He wrote the following advice which, according to him, will help consumers determine whether a scam or a deal is a legal opportunity:

- Some dubious companies have learned how to circumvent the idea that "if there is no product, it must be a scam." That is no longer a safe basis for people looking into an opportunity. There are dubious companies, for example, that now offer products just to make themselves appear legal, when in fact, they are engaged in a scam.

- Steer clear of any company that will require you to shell out money in exchange for nothing, even if there is supposedly a product being offered.

- It is best not to consider companies that charge a registration fee of about P1,000, or more. It may be legal, but membership should not be expensive at all.

- Watch out for companies that offer products at higher cost than market prices. Consider also if the products are imported or not. Imported products are normally more expensive even when sold through traditional channels like supermarkets, groceries, etc.

- Note also that Mlm or Mlm-like opportunities come in any combination of these four basic opportunities: profitable, unprofitable, legal and illegal. Some opportunities may be profitable but illegal, or unprofitable but legal. The worst kind is the unprofitable and illegal type. Conversely, the best opportunity is the profitable and legal kind.

Sad experience

Ging L. of Binondo shares her experience in the hope that others may learn from her costly lesson.

She wrote to us that five months ago, she was lured into a marketing scheme specializing in the food supplement business. After attending the orientation seminar, she was so convinced of the system that she immediately signed up for

READERS/p.C3

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Readers' varied reactions to consumer issues

(From page C2)

membership. Right there and then, she paid the required investment to the tune of P26,000. Inspired by the prospects of gains, she tried her best to find prospective buyers for the goods.

What she found out later was devastating. She wrote, "I was told that the business was about 90 percent recruiting, and 10 percent retail; and that in case the goods didn't sell, I could anyway take them to maintain my health. My goodness! The very reason I invested my hard-earned savings was to earn more money than I used to.

"Two months later, I was desperately thinking of ways to dispose of the stocks and recover 38 percent of my investment. I have finally given up hope. *Hindi na ako kumita, lugi pa ako.*"

DHL replies to complaint

DHL president Jose B. Feliciano sent us the following letter to inform us how the company acted on the complaint of Eladio de los Santos ("Wayward Parcel," PDI, 11/11/01). Enclosed words are those of this columnist.

"We have clearly stated (in a formally written letter to Mr. De los Santos last Oct. 29) that the cause of delay was because of the documents required by Japan Customs, which his son (had to) secure. This caused the shipment to be held at Japan Customs. In addition, Japan customs declared that the CDs included in the shipment were (X-rated).

"It would be noteworthy to mention that Mr. De los Santos was constantly advised of the progress of the shipment. Our office was also aware that he was out of town for sometime, which made it more difficult to get information about his son. At one point, Mr. De los Santos requested our office just to return the shipment back to Manila. However, because of the additional freight charges, he changed his mind.

"We have extended our apologies to Mr. De los Santos for not being able to deliver the shipment on the expected time. The delay, however, was not caused by DHL. Our station in Japan has exhausted all efforts to convince customs to release the parcel. Contrary to what you have written on your article that the consignee picked up the shipment in Tokyo, the shipment was actually delivered to the consignee in Yokohama in the morning of Oct. 12.

"We hope to have shed light on the matter. We assure you that DHL always have its clients' best interest in mind."

E-mail the author at mariettagiron@hotmail.com or mgiron@csi.com.ph

Co-op fair provides networking and marketing venue

THE 1ST Cooperatives and SMEs Trade Fair will be held on Dec. 6-9 at the SM Megatrade Hall 3, Mandaluyong City. Organized by the Department of Trade and Industry's Bureau of Domestic Trade Promotions (BDTP), the Cooperative Development Authority and Gateway East Inc., the fair will offer a wide assortment of Filipino crafts, goods and services.

Rhodora Leaño, BDTP director, says that by promoting cooperatives' business ventures, the organizers aim to build a consumer base for these cooperatives. "After being oriented and mobilized toward clear-cut business goals and income generation, we hope that these cooperatives can be drawn into the mainstream economy."

The Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) currently lists some 50,000 cooperatives widely distributed all over the country. These cooperatives range from simple retailers', farmers' and fishers' co-ops to larger traders' federations. Contrary to the popular notion that cooperatives are mere credit and loan ventures, cooperatives specialize in a variety of businesses, among them agricultural, processed foods, arts and crafts, garments, jewelry, electronics, leather goods, and furniture and home furnishings.

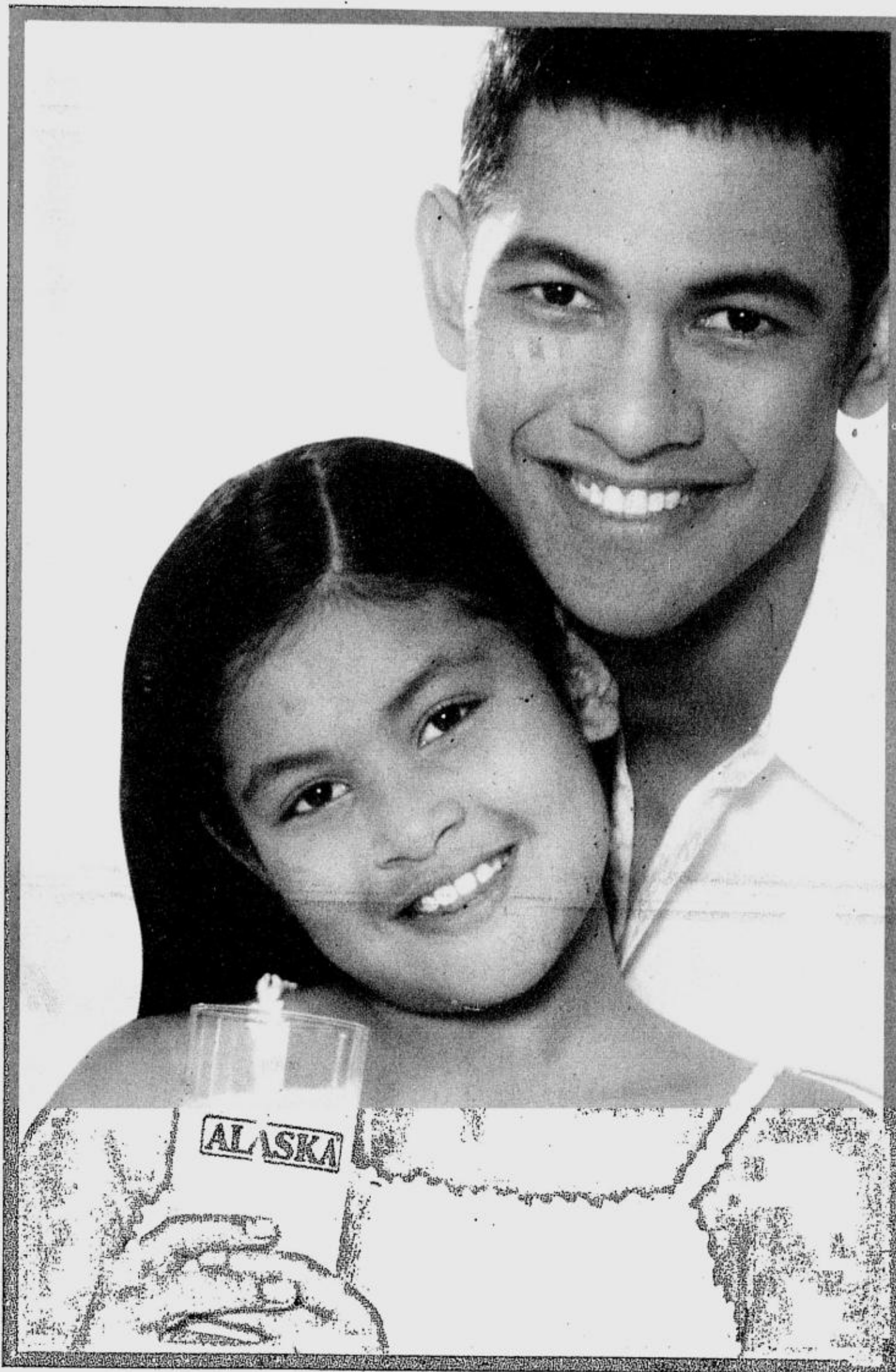
Virginia Teodosio, CDA administrator, challenged CDA regional directors to showcase their area's best, most aggressive and forward-looking cooperatives in the fair. "Promotion of cooperatives can be better achieved through examples that serve to inspire the rest and those who are considering organizational options for economic productivity," said Teodosio.

In a directive to CDA regional directors, Teodosio called for coordination with local government units to ensure participation of the best cooperatives in their areas be they involved in agriculture, production, marketing, trading.

Call Gateway East at 637-6754, 734-0588 or e-mail gateway@i-next.net or call BDTP at 890-4933/4877.

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Gary Valenciano and daughter, Kiana, 8 yrs. old



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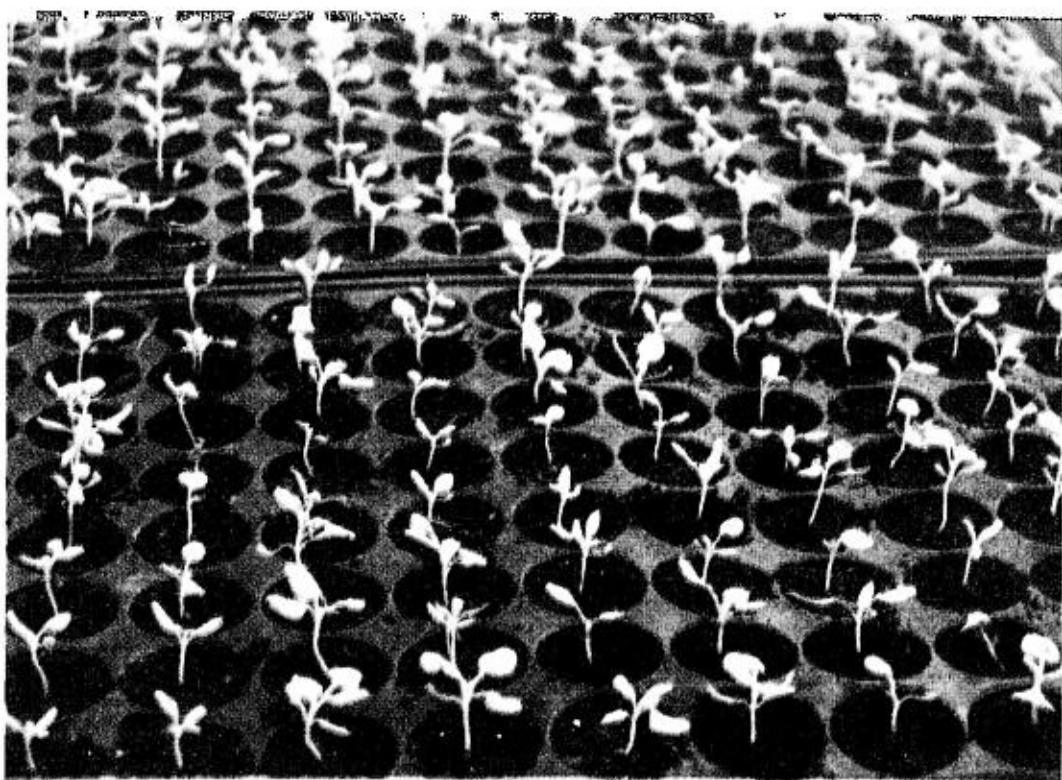
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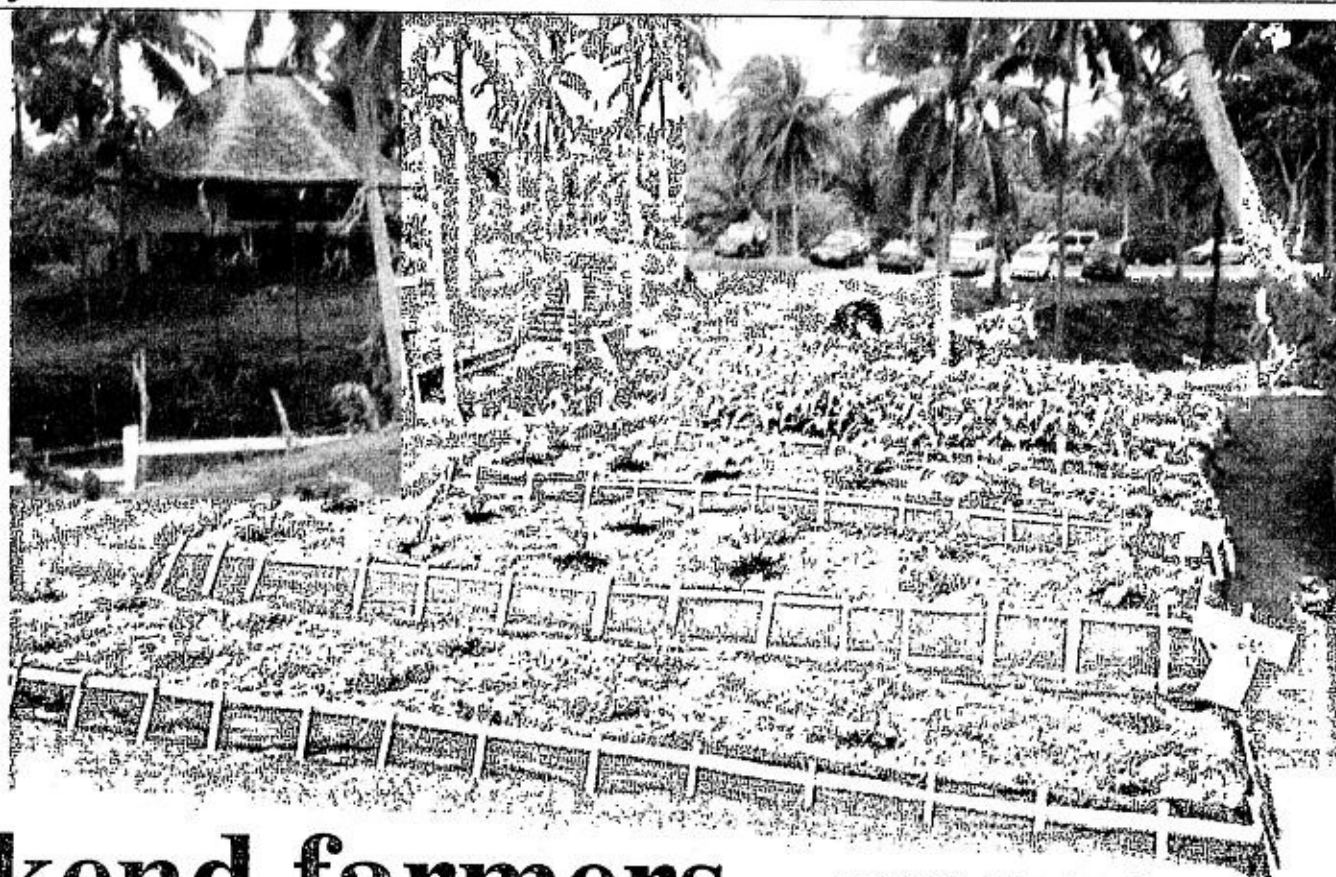
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'Tis the season for





SEEDLINGS
bursting with life



A SECTION of the demo farms
planted to "high value" crops overlooks
Leisure Farms' marketing office.

Haven for weekend farmers

(From page C1)

Leisure
Farms
in Lemery,
Batangas
seeks
to make
the dream
of farmer-
wannabes
from the
city come
true

gano, leeks, bell pepper and tarragon. Temporary greenhouses made of plastic sheets mounted on bent bamboo strips have been unveiled to reveal watermelon and honeydew vines.

Several vermicomposting plots sit in a corner of the demo farms. The process, which was introduced by Buro-Buro Farms, turns worm excreta into organic fertilizer. Unlike other forms of animal manure, however, it emits no foul odor. "The worms feed only on leaves," explains Matic.

Landco will be expanding the demo farms to include a host of organic and hybrid vegetables, coffee farms and flower farms. The expansion will also include an orchard, bee farm, composting pit and fishpond teeming with tilapia.

Like Canyon Woods and Punta Fuego, two of Landco Pacific's upscale subdivisions, this latest project has provisions for water, electricity, a road network and clubhouse. Not everybody would be allowed to enter the gated community to ensure the landowners' privacy and security, but everybody is welcome to visit the agro-tourism park.

Xerez-Burgos has subdivided the 116-hectare property into several parcels of land measuring 1,000 sq m each. Landowners are encouraged to build their weekend homes within their respective spaces, but the floor space of each structure shouldn't exceed 200 sq m. The rest of the lot must be devoted to farming.

"In keeping with the project's theme," says Xerez-Burgos, "every family is required to build a Filipino-inspired house."

That means no concrete walls, brick canopies and wrought-iron grills and yes to bamboo walls, thatched *anahaw* roofs and *capiz* sliding windows. Color schemes are decidedly muted, with emphasis on earth tones. Of course, there's enough room for such modern-day amenities such as electricity and plumbing.

Upscale

Leisure Farms is decidedly upscale, but land prices are definitely much lower compared to prevailing rates at Punta Fuego and neighboring Canyon Woods. Based on Xerez-Burgos' study, the concept appeals to established clients mostly nearing retirement age. "Now that they have more time for themselves and their families," he says, "they want to do something different."

The idea to develop the property into a weekend haunt resulted in the aftermath of the Asian economic crisis two years ago, when Xerez-Burgos took a break from Landco to finish his MBA at the Asian Institute of Management. Landco was originally planning to develop a golf course, but had to back out due to bleak prospects.

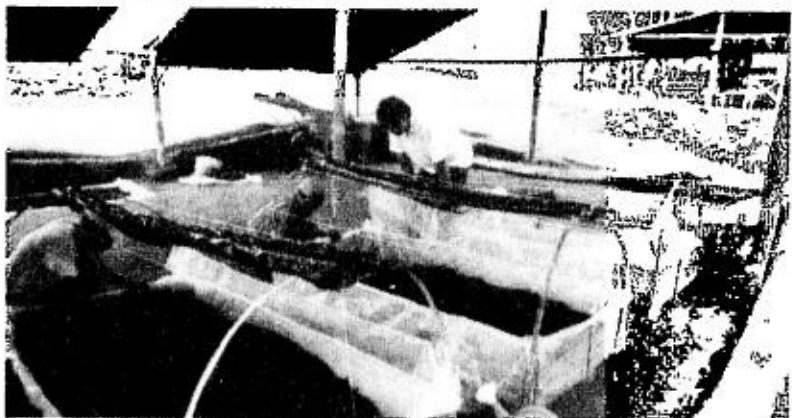
"My thesis tackled what to do with the land," says the young executive. "The next best thing was to cut it up to more affordable sizes, but big enough so we could unload them faster. Unlike individual lots, farm lots could be sold quickly to generate cash."

And to bring much joy and a sense of fulfillment to the occasional farmer even if only on weekends. For inquiries, call Leisure Farms at 809-3210 and 807-8754 to 58, local 357.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph



AN ELDERLY couple take their pick.



FARM manager Eric Matic (in white shirt) oversees the vermicomposting area.



NOT just ordinary labor but trained farmhands



LETTUCE, anyone?



AERIAL view of demo farms

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Artist builds bridges for special children with her work

BY CATHY BABAO GUBALLA
PHOTOS BY ROGER CARPIO
PAINTING PHOTOS BY JOEL SOL CRUZ

AMONG THE MANY achievements of noted artist Araceli Limcaco-Dans, she seems to be happiest and proudest of raising her brood of 10. "I'm now a great-grandmother and a grandmother of 29 and counting," she says with a huge smile the morning after receiving her latest blessing.

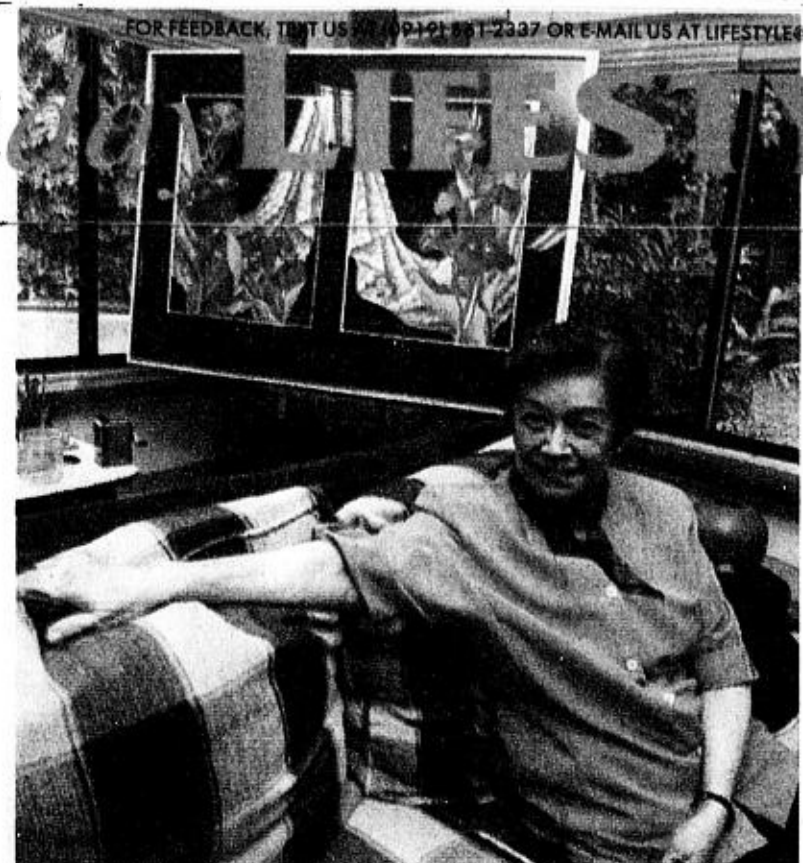
Raising 10 children was certainly no mean feat for her and her husband, the late Jose Dans. But the artist obviously enjoyed and relished every minute of it. "It was really no big deal. With 10 children, you just have no time for any self-pity," she says letting out a big, hearty motherly laugh.

Limcaco-Dans is warmth, fun and grace personified. So much like her works that burst forth with color and detail, Dans is earthy, filled with joie de vivre and a great warmth that perhaps come from nurturing a large family with all its attendant joys and pains. One of her favorite anecdotes is how she would bathe all her 10 children by using the garden hose. "Tapos dalawang big towels lang para hindi mahirap maglaba," she lets out another laugh as she looks back on her children's younger days. "Enjoy naman sila. The older ones would towel off the younger ones," she adds.

While dad was a disciplinarian, mom was his foil. "One time Baba (one of her younger daughters) came running to tell me that Andy had swallowed a safety pin," Dans relates. "So I asked, closed or open?" she says nonchalantly. When little Baba replied that it was closed, mom coolly replied, "Okay, forget about it," and then went on with her other chores. Grace under pressure in the little things and in the big things. "With 10 children, there's just no other way to do it," Dans says.

Running a household of 10 and managing a...

TIMELESS. Araceli Limcaco-Dans in her studio



In her own quiet and private way, the artist has always held a special place in her heart for individuals with special needs

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"BAGOY LUMA," watercolor, 21" x 21.5", 1988

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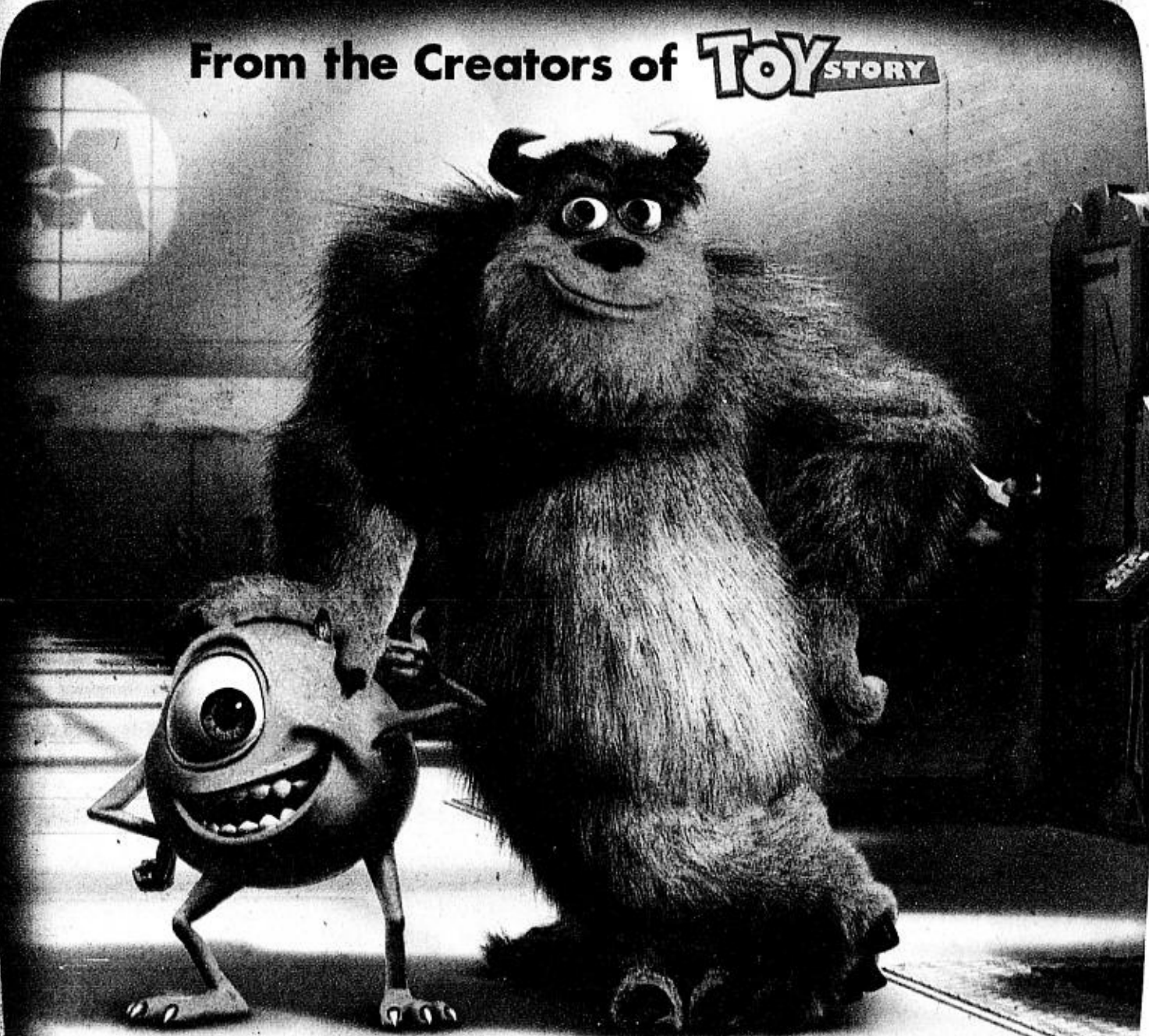
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The cards are priced at P25 each. Call Kate Contreras or any external affairs staff member at 924-4101 local 3750, 415-6625 or 411-0856.

BALANG ARAW, TATANGKAD KA RIN



LIMCACO-DANS with the founders and children of Bridges Foundation Inc.

Artist builds bridges for special children with her work

(From page D1)

career as an art teacher at the Ateneo de Manila Grade School, where she organized the art department, then becoming a full-fledged artist were among the many hats that Limcaco-Dans wore. While at the Ateneo she organized an art exchange program among her students and the special children at Cupertino school in La Vista, Quezon City. "The boys would exhibit their works at Cupertino and, in turn, the Cupertino children would display theirs at the Ateneo," she relates. Limcaco-Dans says it opened a gate of understanding between the children of both schools.

Full and giving life

"Art is universal. You can appreciate it at any level, and I guess that's what we were able to accomplish when we had that art exchange program years ago," she says looking back with fondness. In her own quiet and private way, the artist has always held a special place in her heart for individuals with special needs. While mothering, painting and teaching, she has volunteered as lecturer at the Learning Center for the Disabled, Silahis Drug Addiction Center and the Veterans Memorial Hospital Rehabilitation Center. Limcaco-Dans certainly leads a full and giving life that is evident in the drama, elegance and beauty of her much-acclaimed works.

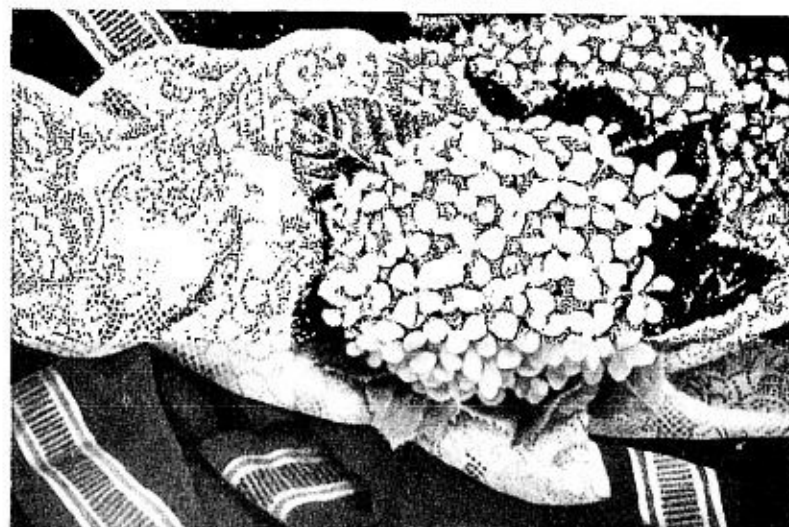
Special children, however, hold a very dear place in her life. "Few people know that special children are gifts from above. They are innocent angels and will remain so for the rest of their lives," she says. "We need to realize that we all have a responsibility in taking care of our innocent ones," she adds. For this reason, Limcaco-Dans is donating a portion of the proceeds from her exhibit, which runs Dec. 6-20 at the Metropolitan Gallery in Megamall, to the Bridges Foundation Inc., a school for children with special needs in Quezon City.

Limcaco-Dans also shares her great talent in a beautiful 2002 calendar that contains 12 of her intricate and colorful *callado* paintings. Funds raised from the sales of the calendar will all go to the Bridges Foundation. "This is the first time that this is being done," she says with a hint of motherly pride in her voice.

The funds raised will help upgrade the facilities and equipment of the school, maintain another school year of scholarship for several children from economically marginalized families,



"BAKURAN NI ALING TITANG," acrylic on canvas, 35" x 40", 1999



"BLUE SYMPHONY," watercolor, 15" x 22", 1994

promote awareness of and compassion for the differently abled and respect for their rights for acceptance and inclusion, not to mention their right to be educated and recognized as productive members of their homes and communities.

The calendar makes a lovely and meaningful gift. One is able to bring home Limcaco-Dans' priceless and lovely works and, at the same time, know that he or she has helped, in a small way, care for special children. The artist, who has seen both sadness and joy, is a lady who knows much about service and the intrinsic, immeasurable rewards that come from reaching out to others. "It was in caring for them that I realized that these special children drew from me certain virtues I thought I never had before," she says. If her works are anything to go by, then Limcaco-Dans' heart must truly brim with a love and generosity as magnificent as the hues on her canvas.

Call Bridges Foundation at 372-0752/53.

E-mail the author at cbguballa@inquirer.com.ph

Consuelo Award presented Nov. 29

THE FIRST Consuelo Award winner will be honored in ceremonies on Nov. 29, death anniversary of Consuelo Zobel Alger after whom the prize was named. To receive the first-ever Consuelo Award is the Jolo-based Sanyang Multipurpose Cooperative, which has helped empower the seafaring and nomadic Badjao cultural community. Also to be recognized are NGOs that have exemplified best practices in their fields of endeavor: the Pangarap Foundation in Pasay City, Families and Children for Empowerment and Development in Manila, CRIBS (Create Responsive Infants by Sharing) in Marikina City and Shontoug Foundation in Baguio City. Prominent businessman and civil society leader Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala will be the guest of honor and speaker during the ceremonies to be held at the Cultural Hall, Petron Mega Plaza on Buendia Avenue. The Consuelo Award was set up by the Consuelo Zobel Alger Foundation (Consuelo Foundation) to recognize outstanding Philippine NGOs that have made a significant difference in the lives of disadvantaged Filipino children, women and families.



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A truly 'special' child

BY CYNTHIA O. VALDES

IN THE '60S and '70s, "special" was how psychologists in the Philippines used to describe a broad range of persons who appeared to be functioning in ways perceived as other than "normal." This included those with physical disabilities, the mentally handicapped, the emotionally disturbed, as well as the "gifted" (those with high IQs or with outstanding talents or abilities).

In the United States, this group of individuals was called "exceptional," which sounds more appropriate than "special" when you're talking of persons who function outside the norm. However, the term suggests "exceptional abilities" and is not quite descriptive of "handicapped" persons. Thus, the word "special," though less specific, has come to be accepted by Filipinos when referring to a group that requires "special care" or attention.

In more recent times, I have encountered a variety of new terms. This suggests that psychologists are again searching for words to describe special children. One doctor used "developmentally delayed." I'm sure to medical practitioners, this immediately brings to mind a "syndrome." Unfortunately, a lay person will not easily remember the term.

A well-meaning priest once dropped a term that almost floored me. He said "other-abled." Then someone said "differently abled." Now that to me is carrying things to ridiculous extremes. I was beginning to feel comfortable with "special child."

When people ask about my children, I say I have three sons and a daughter who is a "special child." If the person I am talking to is unfamiliar with the connotation of the term, I tell him or her that my daughter is "mentally handicapped."

When you see signs like "disabled" on toilet doors or parking spaces, you automatically give way. It suggests a "handicap" for which we must, if we are to be called civilized, make some allowance. Even in golf a handicap is a given, why not in life?

Social stigma

By its very nature, a mental handicap is not easy to describe and much harder still to comprehend and accept. Some social stigma is always attached to it. That is probably why some people don't like the term. However, it really simplifies matters when you call a spade a spade and say it's a "handicap" of the mind. A person or child may be handicapped in different degrees and the disability may be manifested in varied ways.

The latest "favorite" labels seem to be ADD (attention deficit disorder) and ADHD (attention deficit hyperactive disorder).

I once asked a child psychologist why there seemed to be so many children in the '80s and '90s afflicted with the disorders. Is it because of the polluted environment, lead, artificial coloring, preservatives and other additives in the food we eat, etc.? Or have the disorders been there before but they only managed to give them "names" now? He did not know the answer but my guess is it's probably both.

My daughter will be 38 in a few days. I like to describe her condition as "high-functioning mental handicap." She is able to perform several tasks well. There are times when she is absolutely smart.

Daily routine

In the morning when she wakes up, Tina makes her own bed, then walks around the village for some 30 minutes accompanied by a maid. When she gets home, she brings out her journal to write her entry for the day.

When I noticed that she wrote exactly the same thing, day after day, I tried to show her that a journal did not have to record faithfully events like "I woke up at 6:30, then I went walking, etc.," that it can also be a record of feelings—sad, happy, afraid, disappointed, embarrassed—or impressions. Or how persons, things or events affect you.

(Somewhere in this article is a piece Tina did about her cat and its kittens).

The rest of Tina's day is spent going around in the car with Lola. During these car rides, she is on the lookout for empty soft drink cans people leave by the wayside, sidewalk or tables (I draw the line at picking it up from the garbage can). Yes, Tina is into "recycling."

When special children reach a certain age or level of self-sufficiency, the ideal progression is to provide a "sheltered workshop" situation that will allow them to "earn." As they mature, they want to make certain decisions for themselves. That includes having some money of their own to spend as they wish. Tina has become the "scrap lata princess" of Ayala Alabang.

Her dad thinks it's a joke ("no me des la lata"). I think it is good that she has found a way to earn money. The cans sell for 50 centavos each and there is a recycling center within the village. She collects some P500 to P700 worth of cans every two weeks. But this amount is hardly enough for her. She's quite a spender. Despite my efforts to keep things in line, it's getting harder and harder to stop her from going into the trash. Tina has become obsessed with her search for cans to make more money.

She has abandoned other interests, other things she used to enjoy like pottery. Instead of working with clay, she would rather just sit and



TINA Valdes and mom, Cynthia, the author

It really simplifies matters when you call a spade a spade and say it's a 'handicap' of the mind

Tina's story about her cats.

at lunch time. I feed the six cats when I start feeding the six cats they started running to me they know I feed them I love to pat whitey the cat today all six cats I love them all that's why I made a story about them. Coke is still drinking milk from her mother Abby the cat today and also Tintin and Popcorn drinking milk from Abby the cat that's why I love making a story about the six cats.

wait for her classmate to finish her drink so she can get her can.

On Wednesdays, I take her out to lunch. Before we have even ordered, she is already asking the waitress to save the cans for her. To her credit, though, she does this quite discreetly knowing it would upset me. And to the everlasting credit of the waiter or waitress, they do try to accommodate her. We have not encountered one yet who was unkind.

At the end of the day, usually a long one for both of us, Tina sets the table for the next morning's breakfast. She closes our room so we can turn on the air conditioner.

She wants to take off my shoes and socks after my walk. She wants to do the final check of doors to make sure they are all securely locked. She tries to be useful in so many little ways. She caps her day's labor with a statement like "I finished all my work," to which Mom and Dad respond, with love, "That's good, Tina."

Thoughtful but obstinate

If we go out to dinner or something, a note would be propped up on her daddy's desk: "Good A TRULY/p.D6

Pasko Na Naman,
magdala ng libro't laruan
na pangregalo
sa batang nangangailangan.



Ngayong Pasko, muli tayong magbigay-saya sa mga batang nangangailangan. Magdala ng mga pangregalong libro at laruan sa Jollibee hanggang December 16, 2001. Bilang pasasalamat, makatatanggap kayo ng sorpresa mula kay Jollibee at Tito Aga, dahil tumulong kayong maging MaAga ang Pasko.



TINA and nurse and her best friend Minda Casio

THE TRADITIONAL *belen* gets a new look.

THE MAGICIAN and his doves



A JUGGLER moves on a unicycle.

Unique Christmas show leaves audience breathless

THREE Kings as *higantes*

The fabled journey of the Three Kings gets a new twist

STAR City offers something new for the Christmas season this year.

Now drawing SRO crowds every night, Star City combines the grace and elegance of ballet with the thrill and excitement of circus.

Circus de Ballet is a unique live act that reinvents the circus as a form of art and entertainment. A creative collaboration between the country's foremost classical ballet company, Ballet Manila, and the cream of young Filipino circus performers, Circus de Ballet is an artistic alliance that is innovative and awesome.

Staged at the brand-new, 800-seat Star Theater, viewers are treated to an astonishing display of amazing circus acts, magnificent costumes and sets, dazzling lights and spellbinding music that all set the stage for enchanting ballet performances on land, sea and air.

It opens with no less than prima ballerina Lisa Macuja-Elizalde leading some 40 ballet dancers and circus performers in a nonstop, simultaneous display of skill, dexterity and amazing grace.

A pet project of Star City's main man himself, artist-businessman Fred J. Elizalde, Circus de Ballet tries to capture the dream-like magic of the holidays. Its initial holiday offering,

"Belen," offers a new twist to the fabled journey of the Three Kings through a spectacle that traces the Magi's exciting voyage in pursuit of the Brightest Star, where they encounter an array of enchanted personalities and elemental spirits that eventually lead them to the holy manger.

Colorful Magi journey

A real-life magician guides the Magi, who travel across land, water, air and fire as they follow the Star. They see an astonishing display of astounding tricks and death-defying stunts from a host of professional circus performers and acrobats, who altogether breathe life to a host of mystical and supernatural characters.

Ballet Manila provides specially choreographed dance performances showcasing the company's artistry. Flower maidens, water nymphs, winged creatures and warriors fill the stage with stunning dance pieces, highlighted by ballerinas on flying machines and a mesmerizing underwater ballet sequence by Macuja-Elizalde, BM's artistic director, shot in Boracay and shown to the public for the very first time.

The spanking new theater has been

filled to the rafters since opening day, with tickets sold out at least an hour before each scheduled performance.

Prior to the performance, visitors enjoy Star City's usual exciting rides, walk-through attractions and *tiangge*, which have made the complex the Pinoy family's favorite theme park in the last 10 years.

"Belen" is directed by BM principal danseur and ballet master Osias Barroso, who also undertook the painstaking task of selecting the best among the young Filipino circus professionals who auditioned for the show. Aside from the whirl of dancing and daring, the show also features live musical performances by some of today's most promising pop singers.

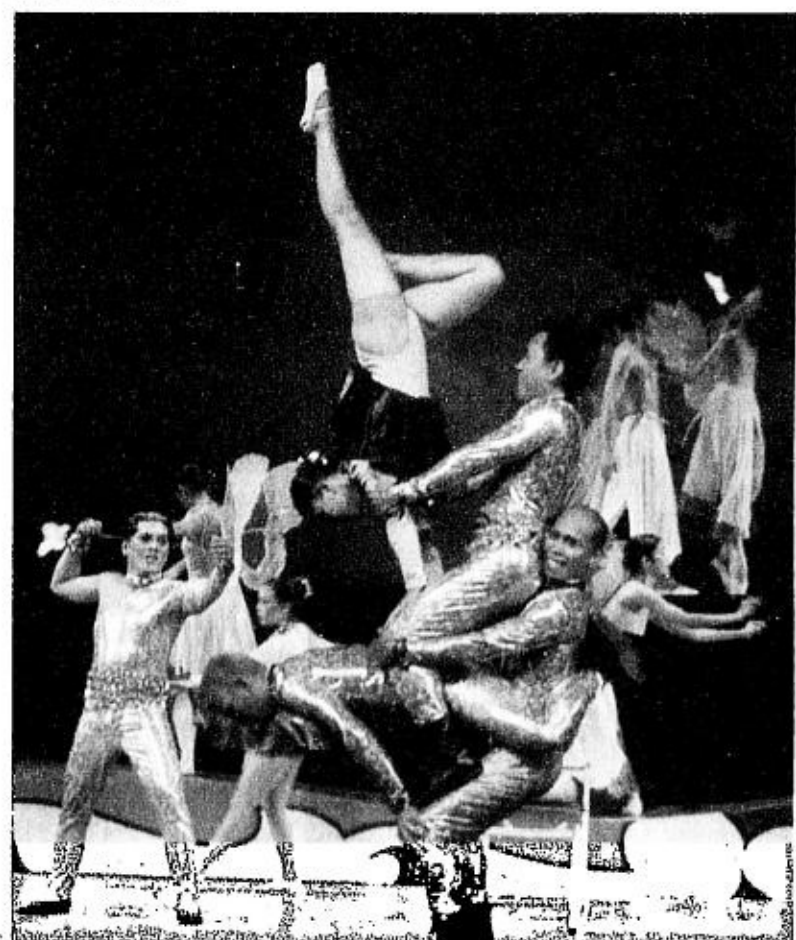
Pinoy fans can enjoy the world-class "Belen" at affordable prices. A ride-all-you-can bracelet is available for only P180. The Six Stars ticket, which includes entrance fee plus a maximum of three rides, sells for P140. A simple entrance ticket costs P40.

"Belen" goes onstage nightly (hourly performances 8-11 p.m.) at the Star Theater, with shows scheduled throughout the holidays until Jan. 6.

Thrilling rides and attractions awaiting the family and the whole *barkada* at Star City daily, 4 p.m. onward. Star City is at the CCP Complex, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City.



FIRE-EATERS



BALLET Manila dancers



STAR City facade

In the Wink of an eye

TEXT AND PHOTOS BY TIM YAP

MUCH has been written about Rhett Eala's design talent, kindness and unique understanding of his market. And boy, what a market! His Wink launch at the RCBC Plaza drew the gamut of elite society from A to Z, mixing the old and new guard movers of the chic set.

With guests coming in their cocktail best as early as 6:30 p.m., the gala started with guests sipping Artic's flavored vodka concoctions while a buffet by Eat was spread all over the lobby of the Plaza's Yuchengco Tower. The affair was sponsored by Bankard and Metro magazine.

A refreshing sight was the designer mingling with his guests even before the show started—in true Rhett fashion, wearing polo and jeans with sneakers. Artist Baby Valencia was there to lend motherly support. Rhett's business partner Cindy Yang wore a Rhett Eala beaded black top and skirt, and was seen hopping from lobby to backstage. Propaganda pioneers Ting Duque and Jing Monis styled the models in the show.

Aside from the namedroppables—from Kristine Yang to Kathy de Guzman—present at the function, a huge stream of low-key players from the "bo-chine" (that's bourgeois-chinois) community attended the Tara Santos' Ideal Edge-produced Wink affair.

Elated ovation

"I want to introduce the Chinois community to Rhett," said his new muse Cindy, responsible for their posh new Glorietta 3 store frequented by the city's hip and happening set (pretty soon, there'll be a branch at the Rockwell strip). "Their ponchos, leather corset belts and rhinestone studded jeans are hot, hot, hot!" said style file Celine Lopez.

The front-row VIPs were led to their banquet ensemble tiffany chairs as they waited for the show to start. Among them were media power players Thelma San Juan, Marge Enriquez and Millet Mananquil. Also there were Marilen Concepcion, Raul Manzano, Maurice Arcache and Mons Romulo-Tantoco, who wore Rhett's latest off-shouldered ruffled top.

And then the Jackie Aquino-directed show began. The models walked the whole stretch of the building, which doubled as ramp. A stunning opener was Tweetie de Leon-Gonzalez, who elicited wild applause in every sequined appearance. Also getting terrific applause were Marina Benipayo and Apples Aberin, both señora sensations (über model's model to you and me). These veteran models proved the timelessness of Rhett's designs. "I can wear all the clothes in this collection!" exclaimed style savvy Wendy Puyat.

An explosive confetti shower signaled the finale. Rhett walked out from backstage, obviously elated as he romped on his ramp with both Tweetie and Apples in tow. The audience gifted him with an ovation.

To that, he winked with joy.

Rhett Eala's gala for his new fashion line gets the nod—and more than a wink—from the elite set



SPARKLING STYLE. Raul Manzano, Kathy de Guzman, Kristine Yang and Ines Delgado



INDUSTRY VANGUARDS. Tonichi Nocom, Marden Iglesias, Des and J.B. Abesamis and Gerry Katigbak



FASHION ELITE. Crickette Tantoco, Celia Moleno, Liaa Favis and Frances Yu

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GLITTER, GLITTER. Cindy Yang and Tara Santos



GLOWING GALS. Gia Lopez, Trisha Borromeo and Carmen Santos



HUG-A-BUG. Director Jackie Aquino and Wink designer Rhett Eala



PRIDE EXCHANGE. Melinda de Leon and Rhett's mom Baby Valencia

Spread holiday cheer to poor, sick and abused children



ONE of the beneficiaries at the San Lorenzo Hospital Pediatric Ward

SHOPPERS can do their share and make a child happy this Christmas by joining SM Foundation's joint charity project with ABS-CBN Foundation's Bantay Bata 163.

There are two ways you can share your blessings and bring joy to less fortunate children—through Bantay Bata 163's Christmas Tree of Hope and through SM Foundation's Share a Toy campaigns. Donation booths will be set up at 11 SM Supermalls until Jan. 2 for this purpose.

Every purchase of Bantay Bata 163's special edition Christmas cards entitles one to hang an ornament with one's name at the Christmas Tree of Hope.

Bantay Bata 163 will also hold children's caroling programs at the SM Supermalls during the holidays. Proceeds will be for the benefit of Bantay Bata 163's 3-hectare Children's Village.

You can also make a child happy by buying a new toy at the booth or donating old toys to SM Foundation's Share a Toy project. Each donation entitles you to a cash coupon from the Toy Kingdom.

All toys will indicate the donor's name and will be distributed to less fortunate children in hospitals and charitable institutions. During the past four years, SM Foundation's Share a Toy project has



SM Foundation's Christie Angeles distributes toys to indigent children in Mindanao.



THIS toy car lights up the season for this boy confined at the National Children's Hospital

brought cheers to over 25,000 children. As these photos show, toys from SM shoppers brought big smiles to children in their sickbeds.

Make a Child Happy This Christmas renews the collaborative efforts of SM Foundation and ABS-CBN's Bantay Bata 163 to give support and holiday cheer to poor, sick and abused children through a mall-based charity project.

Donation booths will be set up until Jan. 2 at SM City North-Edsa, SM Centerpoint, SM Megamall, SM Southmall, SM City Bacoor, SM City Fairview and SM City Manila in the Metro Manila areas, as well as SM City Cebu, SM City Iloilo, SM City Pampanga and SM City Davao in the provincial areas.

Designs of hope and serenity

DMC, makers of the world's finest embroidery thread, introduces designs that will surely bring peace of mind to both the cross-stitch aficionado and the viewer as Christmas comes near. These are "Silent Night" and "A Family Prayer."

"Silent Night" is a cross-stitch rendition of the very famous Christmas carol. It depicts the serene picture of the Baby Jesus, sleeping in a manger. Set against a dark-blue *aida* cloth background, the image conjures calm and hope.

"Family Prayer" is a short powerful prayer about the home. It paints the Holy Family in a simple yet beautiful arrangement of DMC floss and metallic threads.

These designs were especially prepared by the DMC studio and are now available at craft shops nationwide.



A truly ...

(From page D3)

night, Dad, good night, Mother. I hope you enjoyed your dinner. I love you both very, very much. Good night again. Your daughter, Tina."

But she can be obstinate, refusing to understand why she cannot buy the Pokemon T-shirt (it's too small for her) or why she should not bring a garbage bag when she collects cans in the bazaar (it's too big and they might mistake her for the bag lady). With her mom being the boss and final arbiter, there's no way she can get around that. She stomps her feet, kicks a few antique chairs (the poor chairs are all patched up now) and finally slams the door to her room.

On a recent trip, she wanted to know why we could not bring home a shell she found on the beach (it was big, ugly and too heavy) in Pagudpud (Ilocos Norte). We had had to go by foot across the last several meters to and from Saud Beach Resort so even the young children had to carry something going there and back. A recent landslide brought down the bridge.

Tina would not listen to "reason," endlessly repeating that we should turn back for her shell. During such times, explanations, promises and even threats of serious bodily harm won't stop her.

Thankfully, the maid remembered that good psychology sometimes worked with Tina. Yaya Mary Jane changed the subject by telling Tina they should call Minda (Lola's nurse) when we got to Manila to ask how the kittens were doing. Surely, they must be missing her by now. Were the kittens fed, etc.?

We do have our light moments. When asked if she has a boyfriend, Tina readily answers yes, his name is Charles. When asked who he is, she replies with a chuckle, "Apat ang paa," Charles being her Dalmatian.

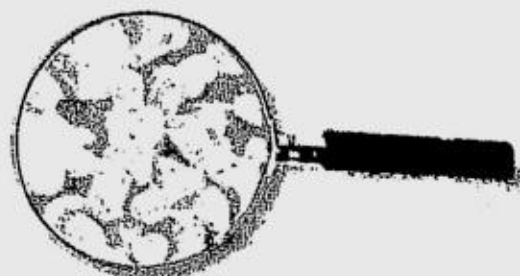
Around the table, if we happen to be trying to best one another with a quote from Shakespeare, she is not to be left out, reciting: "Romeo my Romeo, wherefore art thou, my Romeo..." Yes, she reads. Not quite Shakespeare but the Paddington Bear series and the books of Enid Blyton. She is quick to pick up information from here and there and is quite good with "See a Word" puzzles, which build up her vocabulary.

That's Tina. When I say she is "mentally handicapped," it is actually a plea for understanding. She may be sitting across from you, ready to pounce on your soda can before you finish your drink. Hopefully, you will see that she is not some fresh kid. In spite of her graying hair, she is a "child." May you find it in your heart to treat it as a "special" case.

In every sense of the word, Tina is special.

WALA KANG LABAN KUNG WALA KANG ALAM SA KALABAN.

Iba na ang dumi at germs sa mundo. Iba na ring panganib ang dala nila sa mundo mo. Para sa kaligtasan ng iyong pamilya, kilalanin ang bawat isa.



E-COLI

Ang *Escherichia coli* o E-coli ay isang uri ng bacteria na karaniwang nakukuha sa raw meat.

Kapag karne ay infected, lahat ng mga surfaces na mapaglagyan o mga bagay na madikit nito ay masasalin din ng E-coli: kutsilyo, cutting board, kitchen tiles, plato, lababo, etc.

Ang E-coli ay maaaring maging sanhi ng pagsusuka, sakit ng tiyan at diarrhea. Para malwasan ang pagkakasakit, ugalling linisin ang mga kitchen surfaces gamit ang Bagong Domex Thick.

FUNGI
Ito ay matatagpuan sa mga damp areas gaya ng banyo at maaaring pagmulan ng pangangati, pagbahaing at pag-ubo. Para siguradong tanggal ang mapanganib na fungi, gumamit ng Bagong Domex Thick tuwing maglilinis.

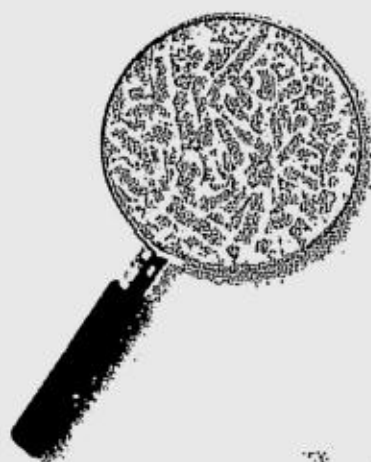


SALMONELLA

Salmonella Enteritidis. Isang uri ng bacteria na makukuha sa hilaw na poultry.

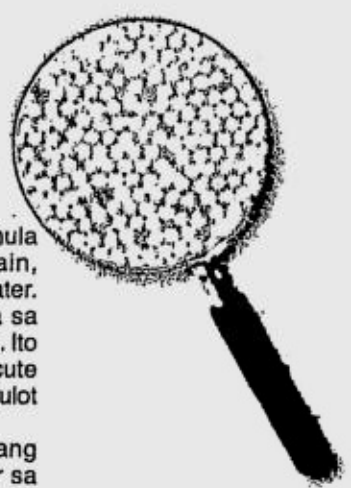
Ang taong infected ay karaniwang nilalagnat, sumasakit ang tiyan at sinusumpung ng diarrhea sa loob ng 12 to 72 hours matapos ang pagkain ng pagkaing may *Salmonella*.

Para malwasan, panatilihin sa refrigerator ang mga hilaw na pagkain. Dapat ding linisin ang mga lugar na pinaghandaan at pinaglutan ng pagkain gamit ang Bagong Domex Thick.



HEPATITIS A VIRUS

Ito ay virus na nagmumula sa maruruming pagkain, tubig at mga stagnant water. Maari rin itong malpasa sa iba ng taong maysakit na. Ito ang leading cause ng Acute Hepatitis na nakakapagdulot ng liver damage. Siguraduhing malinis ang kusina at iba pang lugar sa bahay na pinaglagayan ng pagkain. Gumamit ng Bagong Domex Thick tuwing maglilinis.



Sa mas mabagsik na dumi at germs, ito na dapat ang panlaban mo!

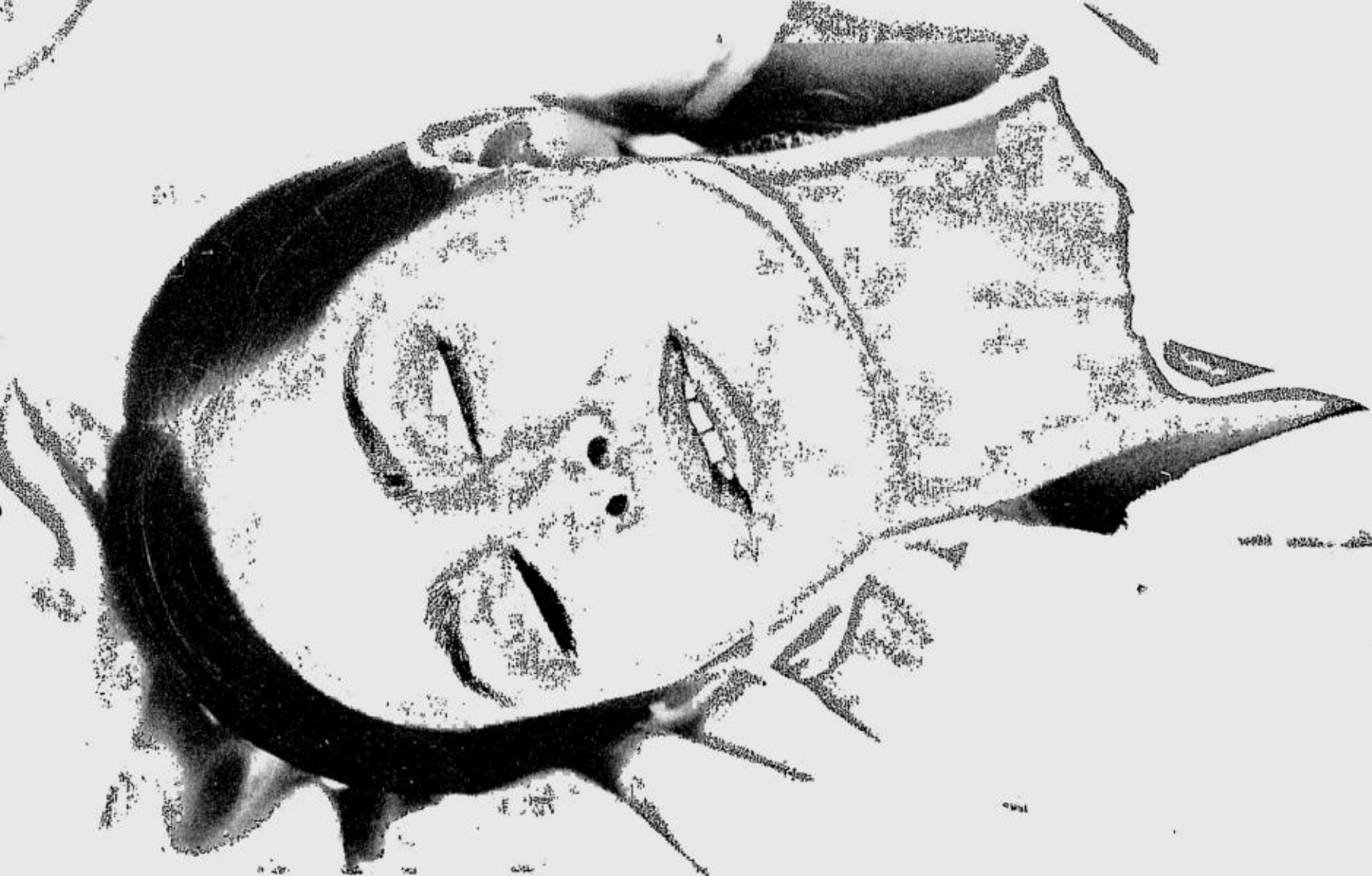
Bagong DOMEX Thick

Naiiba dahil Thick! Kaya kahit duming nanikit na, natatanggal pa. Pati all-known germs na kasama, napapatay pa.

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People everywhere take nutritional supplements for many reasons. A balanced diet should provide us with all the nutrients we need. How many of us can truly say that we get all the nutrients we need from what we eat? Fast food, skipped meals, and life on the go can often mean we miss out on essential nutrients. Do you smoke or drink alcohol? Maybe your body could use a little help! Supplements are a great way of making sure your body gets everything it needs.

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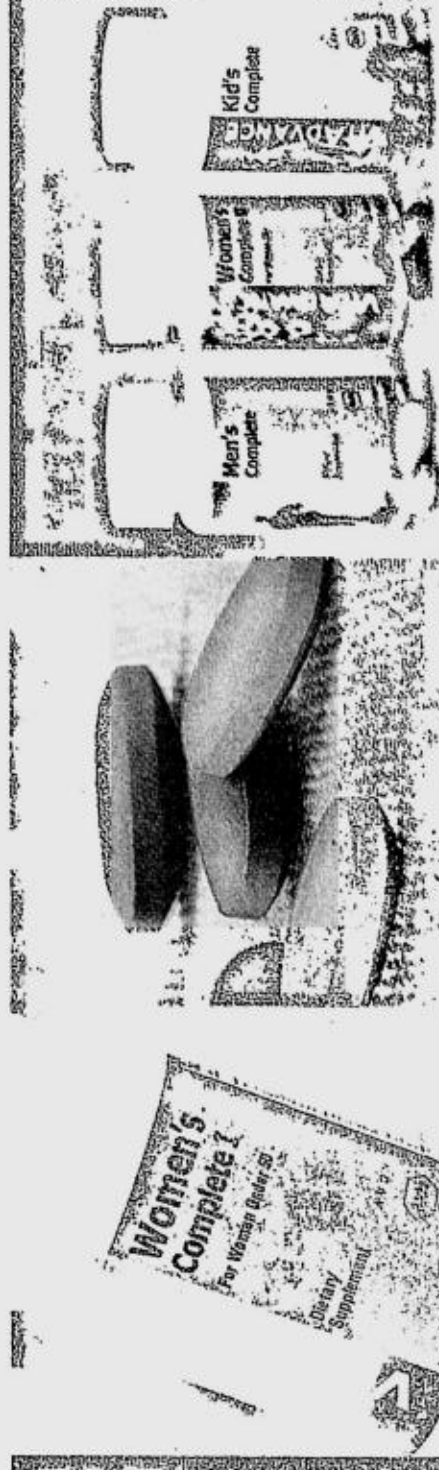
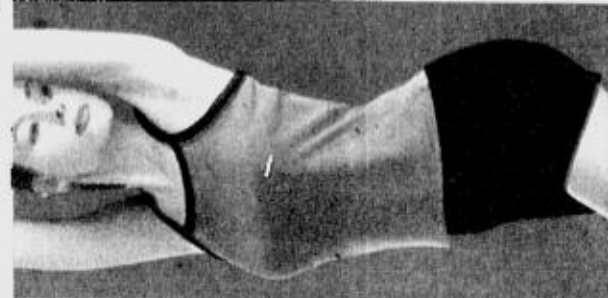
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Sunday LIFESTYLE



Martin Nievera's new song is the heart of Gift Gate's feel-good Yuletide campaign

Do they know it's Christmas!

BY CHELO BANAL-FORMOSO

CAN'T stop Christmas. Don't you just love that line? It isn't a question but a statement. It isn't a promise but a birth-right. It isn't whispering hope, it's in-your-face rap.

The message is not negotiable: Christmas is happening, period. Whether you have money or not, whether you find time or not, whether you like it or not.

Can't stop Christmas. That's telling the Grinch to forget about his

plot to slither down Mt. Crumpit to put a damper on the feasting and the singing and the giving. It's Bob Cratchit standing up to Mr. Scrooge and demanding a day off so he can stay home to celebrate with his family. And it's saying to the Bin Ladens, Janjanis, Misuaris and other villains famous for their dangerous obsessions that not all the firepower in the world can cower us into a corner and it is *they* who are going to have to make big attitude adjustments.

Trust the family fun shop Gift Gate to use those three words to

DO/p.E4

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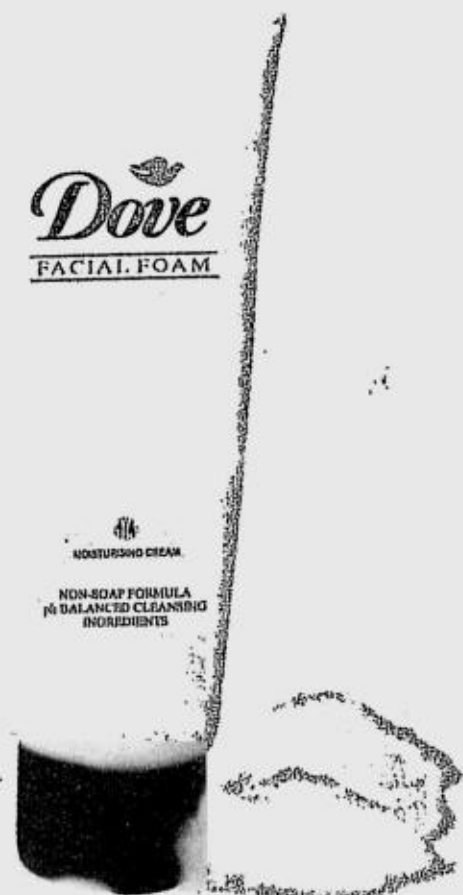
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GOTCHA. Dr. Delfin Samson shows off his Magsaysay-Ho masterpiece.

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BY CATHY BABAO GUBALLA
PHOTOS BY JOHNNY VILLENA

ON A COOL, starlit November evening this week, the Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP) together with the Makati Garden Club joined hands to present the 7th Festival of Trees. This is an annual fund-raiser for the benefit of PBSP's livelihood and environment projects in ecologically threatened coastal areas. This year's beneficiaries are Maqueda Bay in Western Samar, Olango Island in Cebu and Ragay Gulf in Quezon.

On Nov. 21, the NBC Tent at The Fort was filled with social luminaries and personalities from the business world who bid openly and silently for trees, Christmas tabletops and artwork of well-known Filipino artists led by the internationally renowned Anita Magsaysay-Ho. The works of the artist, who had been donating her masterpieces since 1997, have raised millions of pesos for the programs being supported by the festival.

This year, as a tribute to Magsaysay-Ho's continued support, the open auction only featured her latest painting "El Hardin de San Francisco," which was brought home by United Laboratories president Dr. Delfin Samson. The painting depicts a Filipino mother and her three children relishing a moment in the family garden. It was sold for P3.5 million.

Other items auctioned off that evening were Zen gardens by interior designer Leo Almeria, watercolor paintings by Angel Cacnio, Edgar Doctor and Joven Ignacio; a lovely centerpiece by Mabolo's Antonio Garcia; 20 Christmas trees

FESTIVAL/ p.E3



DON Jaime and Bea Zobel



JAIME Augusto and Lizzie Zobel



FLOR Gozon-Tarriela and Ma. Luisa Perez-Rublo



JOY Buensalido and Ging de los Reyes

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4008 Series of 2001



BEN Farralles makes a point.



STEVE and Presy Lopez-Psinakis

Festival of trees is celebration . . .

(From page E2)

lovingly created by Ma. Luisa Perez-Rubio; and pretty herb gardens by Ging Severino-de los Reyes. The major door prize was a beautifully framed computerized reproduction of "The Vase" by one of the country's outstanding painters, Araceli Limcaco-Dans.

Tables decked in white scattered with red rose petals filled The Tent that evening as colorful marine fish from the play "The Little Mermaid"

hung from the ceiling giving a delightful ambience to the affair. Entertainment was provided by Mitch Valdez, Gary Valenciano and the Spirit of '67.

A well-attended and successful event, the evening truly was not just a festival of trees. As Festival cochair Ma. Luisa Perez-Rubio put it, "It was a festival of life and hope." The people of Maqueda Bay, Ragay Gulf and Olango Bay have much to be grateful for in spite of the hard times.

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MYRZA Sison (in stripes) with Summit staff



LOUIE Ocampo and (at right) Kara Alikpala



INNO Sotto, Margarita Fores, Phillip Cu-Unjeng and Ben Chan



SANDY Prieto-Romualdez



DENNIS and Tessa Valdes

Virgie Ramos is the optimist who has stolen Christmas back from the Grinches, with a little help from her friends



FIRST OUTING. Nievera performs "Can't Stop Christmas" during the launch.



SARI Yap and Liza Ilarde



CES Drilon, Susan Joven and Joyce Orendain-Stadler

Do they know it's Christmas!

(From page E1)

awaken us out of the doldrums and usher in Santa season. Virgie S. Ramos, who owns and runs the gallery of gifts for people of all ages, just couldn't resign herself to another year of gloomy holiday prospects.

In 1997 when the Asian economy hit dirt, things started going downhill for the country. Last year was even worse with the Abu Sayyaf kidnappings and the impeachment trial that gripped our nation and left businesses badly shaken. As recently as two months ago, terrorists destroyed the World Trade Center in a spectacular way and in so doing sent the world's morale spiraling.

Tired

But it was what all the past events had done to the people's psyche and the spiritual vacuum it had created that made Virgie resolve to do something. She was tired of doomsayers and evil mongers who had nothing good to offer. We can't go on like this, she told multimedia director Rowell Santiago over lunch at Cibo. It was Santiago who uttered the three words that would roll off into a campaign that Virgie hoped would catch on and get us back into the holidaying mood.

Well, as people who know Virgie can attest, she dreams only of things she can deliver.

It proved providential that the Gift Gate image pusher this year, its 25th in the business, happened to be Martin Nievera, an artist whose musical talent needs no qualifier. Virgie, who was on her way to board a plane for Japan, called up Martin, who happened to be in Las Vegas doing a show. By the time Virgie reached the airport, she had the lyrics of the song, texted by Martin verse by verse. "He was still texting me when the plane was calling for final boarding," recalled Virgie. "In Japan, the phone system is not compatible with GSM so we communicated through overseas calls. Horrendous bill!"

Since Martin was doing the music himself, he told Virgie he would record something while in the US. "I thought he'd walk into a fancy recording studio because I told him to just send me the bill. (Instead of spending a lot), he used his network of friends there so his receipts were for \$10, \$20, \$100—for FedEx, pizza, etc.," said an amused Virgie.

She first heard the melody over her speakerphone in her office, and again after her son Miguel downloaded the MP3 format accessed via e-mail. It was then sampled into a CD, which was sent to Louie Ocampo for musical arrangement. "The wonders of modern technology were used in every way to get this song out," said Virgie. "By the time Martin arrived, the song had been arranged and laid on musical tracks, ready for his voice."

Martin's song—entitled what else but "Can't Stop Christmas"—turned out to be a rallying song, a sing-along much like "We

Are the World." It is nothing difficult to wade through, but what it lacks in imagery it makes up for in heart.

Straightforward video

After the song came the making of the 45-second video "Message of Hope" directed by Santiago. Using nothing fancy and commercial, it's a straightforward piece of work with images that evoke delight and reassurance in children and adults alike. It illustrates how small the moments are that cumulatively result in a very good feeling.

The line "Can't stop Christmas" worked like a charm on the bosses at Sanrio Japan. As a result, Sanrio came up with a 15-second animated TV ad for Hello Kitty using the three words. It ends with Kitty's starry-eyed angel look and the line, "We design happiness for the world."

In two weeks, the Gift Gate campaign was ready to be introduced to the media. Nobody has the mastery gift for launching a product like Virgie Ramos. The event turned out to be an early Christmas treat for print and broadcast journalists, past and present Swatch, Hello Kitty and Benetton endorsers, and the early afternoon crowd at Glorietta 3.

Martin Nievera took centerstage, of course, delighting the crowd with old favorites like "What a Wonderful World" and "Smile" before a pitch-perfect performance of "Can't Stop Christmas," with Kara Alikpala's video of children's wishes, specially commissioned by Virgie Ramos, unfolding on the screen in the background. The "Message of Hope" and Sanrio ads followed, to much applause.



CHRISTMAS ribbons and tinsel rain on guests at Glorietta.

PHOTOS BY TIM YAP AND JOHNNY VILLENA



TIM Yap and Sarah Meler, the new Swatch girl.



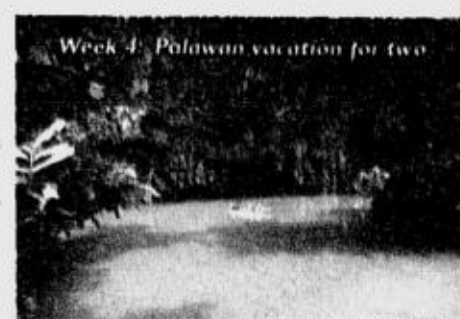
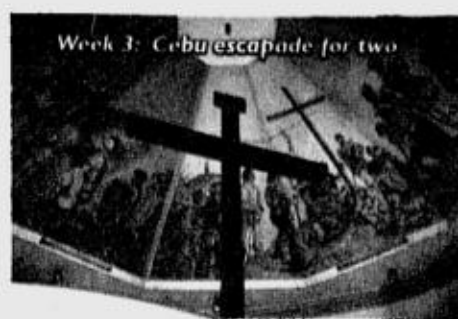
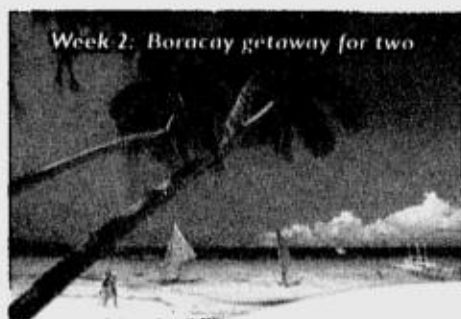
ROWELL Santiago, Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworski and her son Robbie

Although "Can't Stop Christmas" was produced by Gift Gate, it has been included in Martin's new MCA Universal-produced album "My Souvenirs."

ABS-CBN has expressed support for the Gift Gate campaign and will be airing "Message of Hope." What would really be great is for other media companies to spread the good news. The more places the campaign gets aired and the song gets played, the more people it will reach. As Virgie puts it, "the more, the merrier."

And that's the last word from our feel-good authority.

TUNE IN...TEXT IN...WIN!



Globe
HANDYPHONE

Text Away to Getaway!
Win in the weekly draw! Win in the grand draw!



Ford Expedition for family outings!

Trip for 4 to Australia
courtesy of
CATHAY PACIFIC

Ford Explorer Sport Trac for road trips with friends!

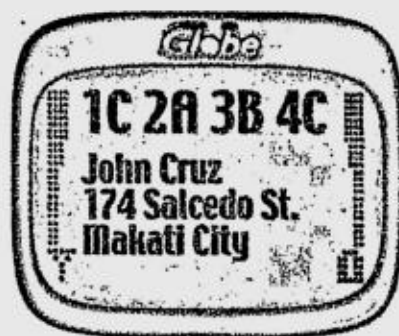
Here's how you can join:

Step 1: Watch Celebr8 on Studio23, Thursdays, 9pm on the following dates: November 22, 29, and December 6

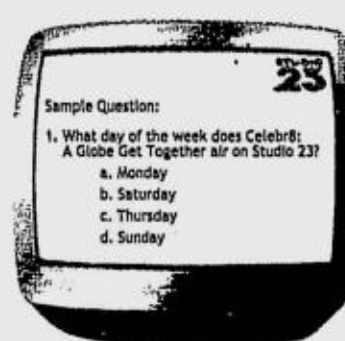


Step 3: Key-in your answer to all four (4) questions, along with your name and address. Follow the format shown below.

Format sample: 1C_2A_3B_4D_First Name_Last Name_Address



Step 2: Wait for the four multiple-choice trivia questions that will be flashed at random during the show.



Step 4: Send your complete set of answers to 2378. The hosts will give you the signal when to start texting in your answers. You qualify for the weekly and grand draw for each text message you send with the correct set of answers.



What else you need to know:

How many times can I send an entry?

You may text in your correct answers up to 20 times per show/week. On your 21st correct text message, you shall receive the text message: "You have exceeded the maximum number of entries. Please try again by watching the show next week. Thank you." Each text message shall be charged an entry fee of P10.00. Watch all four shows and send in as many as 80 correct entries.

How do I know if I sent in the correct answer?

If your answers to all four (4) questions, in each show, are correct, you will receive this text message from 2378: "Congratulations! You have the correct answers to our questions! You now qualify in the weekly and grand draws!"

If your answer is incorrect, you will receive this text message from 2378: "Your answer is incorrect. Please re-type the answers with the correct sequence and send to 2378 again."

So, only text entries with correct answers and its sequence shall be considered as qualified for the contest.

Who will qualify for the weekly and grand draw?

All Globe Handyphone subscribers who texted in the correct answer are qualified in the weekly and grand draws which will be conducted via an Electronic Draw. If you qualify, your Globe Handyphone number will be stored in the database of correct and valid entries and will be included in the Electronic Draw.

Schedule for texting in entries:

For the weekly draw, you may text in your correct answers for each episode until the following day.

For the grand draw, you may text in your correct answers until December 11. All correct non-winning entries from the weekly draws are automatically qualified in the grand draw.



See posters and flyers for more details.





2 WHEN the cement is semi-dry, spread moss around the pot.



3 ARRANGE a few leaves and ornaments around the trunk.



4 USE hot glue gun to hold an accent piece in place.

Budget décor that does not strain the holiday mood

BY VANGIE BAGA-REYES
PHOTOS BY ROMY HOMILLADA



1 HOLD the twig at the center of the pot and fill the pot with white cement.

CHRISTMAS topiaries can set the mood for a truly unique holi-day celebration. They can create the ambience and give life and character to the occasion.

Interior designer and landscapist Jerome C. de Jesus of Portofino (tel. 933-6275/6224) demonstrates how easy it is to create this simple, cheerful house décor without actually straining your limited budget.

Holiday picks and plastic leaves are the main materials for this Christmas ornament. The topiary can be propped on top of a table for added visibility.

To start the project, you will need the following materials: a low, shallow pot of your choice (ceramics, stoneware, earthenware or glazed pot), glue gun, white glue, an 8-inch styrofoam ball, moss, white cement, a twig, plastic leaves and Christmas picks or ornaments.

CRAFT

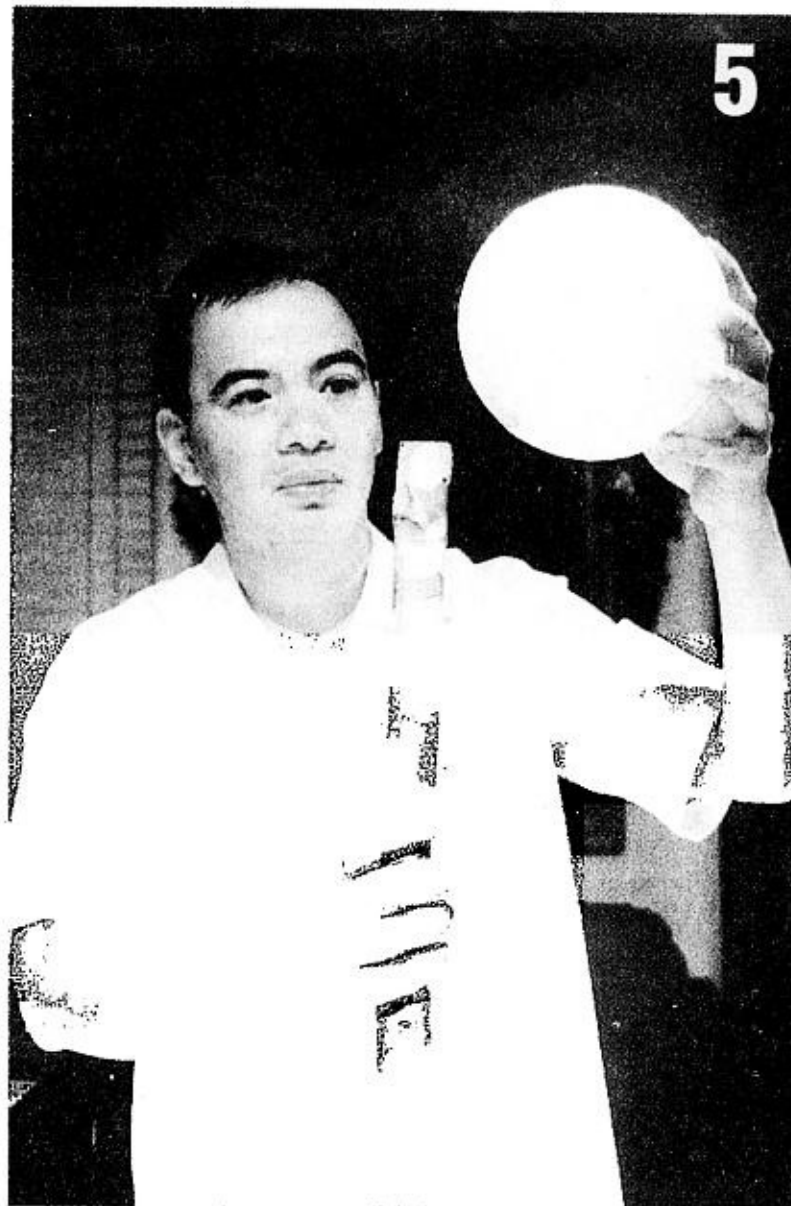
The twig can be bought from garden centers in White Plains for about P20-P30. For a more natural look, apply a coat of varnish on the twig and let it dry for a few hours. A bag of moss costs P10 per kilo. The white cement will cost you about P18 per kilo. You will only need a little over a kilo.

Styrofoam ball is available at major bookstores for P32. A bunch of plastic leaves will cost about P8-P15. Jerome says more than a hundred leaves will be used in one arrangement "to create a perfect sphere." Plastic leaves are aplenty in Divisoria and department stores. In choosing the leaves, get the more natural, fine leaves like cypress.

The topiary will need several colorful Christmas frills, such as ribbons, berries, beads and what-have-you. But here's a helpful tip: after Christmas, you can replace your holiday ornaments with flowers or fruits and you can reuse your easy-to-make topiary all year round.

Creating your own holiday topiary will cost you little less than half the commercial kind available at Rustan's or Shangri-La Mall. A topiary usually costs P4,000-P5,500 in a department store. If you make your own, De Jesus says, you'll spend only P1,500.

For suggestions, e-mail the author at vbaga@inquirer.com.ph



5 PLACE styrofoam ball on top of the trunk.



6 COAT the ball with white glue and stick the moss around it. As much as possible, cover the foam with moss. Let it dry for a few minutes.



7 STARTING from the top and going down sideways, poke the pointed ends of the leaves into the foam. Then, do it diagonally, and fill up spaces in between.



8 ADD colorful pinecones, picks and fruits before you finish the assembly.

After Christmas, you can replace the holiday ornaments with flowers or fruits and use your topiary the whole year



TABLE for 16 in one of Sonya's greenhouses

Birthday party amid the greens and under the stars

SONYA'S Garden in Tagaytay City was the romantic setting for Iryne Garcia's birthday dinner last weekend. The celebrator and well-wishers were treated to a healthy, sumptuous buffet of Sonya's fresh green salads and pasta. Hors d'oeuvre was catered by Biboy Enriquez's Sulo Hotel. Wine, red and white, flowed. As crickets sang and the wind breezed through the greenhouses, guests sang songs of love and life.

The dinner was capped by Biboy proposing marriage to his longtime partner Iryne. Of course, she said yes. Love was definitely in the air. We missed the meteor showers, though.

TEESAW



Raul Teehankee

EMMI Rodriguez and Lydia Ila



VALEN Bagatsing and Bambi Quema



MARITESS and Francisco Joaquin

Prayer workshop

THE CHRISTIAN Meditation Center Foundation Inc. is sponsoring a prayer workshop with Fr. Laurence Freeman on Nov. 30, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m., at the Teatro Aguinaldo, Camp Aguinaldo, QC.

Father Laurence is a monk of the Monastery of Christ the King in Cockfosters, London in the Olivetan Benedictine Congregation. He is involved in the contemplative inter-religious dialogue and led the Way of Peace dialogue with the Dalai Lama. From the International Center of the Christian Meditation Commu-

nity in London, he serves a worldwide network of 27 meditation centers and more than a thousand weekly meditation groups in 50 countries.

He is also the editor of John Maine's books and the author of several books, including "Light Within—The Inner Path of Meditation," "Selfless Self," "Christian Meditation—Your Daily Practice" and "Jesus—The Teacher Within."

Call Arthur Ledesma at 824-09595/2689 or e-mail art888@pacific.net.ph.



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VIC and Evelyn del Rosario



RUTH Castelo



RAULITO Manglapus



AIMEE Navarro

GOLD RUSH

*Finally,
in my cup
lives gold...
the rising steam
that rouses
dreams,
the aroma
that stirs the soul.
... On my lips,
its velvet kiss...
the sip that clears
my mind...
Unveiling
new visions
to pursue.*



Pure Inspiration.

NESCAFÉ GOLD

SILENT
NIGHTHOLY
NIGHTEXTRA
NIGHT

Every two nights at Edsa Shangri-La gets you a third night free. With our Heaven Sent Package, you can avail of a Superior Room for only P7,242+* (inc. of VAT & Gov't. tax), with free breakfast for two on the first two days, shopping tote bag, discounts at Shangri-La Plaza Mall and Hotel Lobby shops and a 10% discount at Rustan's. Giving you a whole new light on your silent nights. For inquiries and reservations, call: (632) 636-9083 to 87 or email rsvn_esl@shangri-la.com. Valid until January 6, 2002.

*Subject to service charge. Package open to local residents and expatriates residing in the Philippines. Proof of residency may be required. Not to be taken in conjunction with other promotions. Kids under six (6) get to eat at the buffet for free when accompanied by two (2) paying adults. Per DDI-MC B Permit No. 43-102, Series of 2001.

Edsa Shangri-La
MANILA

11:42 a.m., SYDNEY

GIRL TALK.

Talk tough.

Conversations like no time,

or distance have passed.

Call a friend abroad

and just talk away

--heart to heart.

Tell her what she has missed

-- how much she is missed.

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Sunday LIFESTYLE

China keeps the world supplied with consumer goods

TEXT AND PHOTOS
BY ROWENA C. BURGOS

WHEN countries modernize these days, they become Americanized and often lose their cultural identity. China is exceptional. The more China develops, the more she reveals a greater complexity and a deeper Chinese-ness.

At the 3rd China International Travel Mart (CITM) 2001, held Nov. 8-11 in Kunming, Yunnan Province in China, Chinese pride was unmistakable. More than 4,000 businessmen and travel agents from 37 countries and regions lined up at 1,256 exhibition booths at the Kunming International Trade Center to arrange joint ventures.

"Known for its long history, brilliant culture, numerous ethnic groups and rich tourism resources, China is one of the most popular tourist destinations in the world. The number of inbound tourists and foreign exchange earnings have achieved a breakthrough double-digit increase and arrivals from the top 15 tourist-generating countries have kept growing," said He Guangwei, chair of the China National Tourist Administration, which sponsored CITM together with the Civil Aviation Administration of China and the Yunnan Provincial Government, during a welcome dinner for CITM delegates.

He said in 2000, tourism receipts in China reached 451.9 billion yuan (about \$55 million), constituting 5.05 percent of China's GDP. In the last five years, China's total tourism revenues have been increasing at an annual rate of 12.7 percent. This is higher than the average growth rate (8.3 percent) of the gross development product (GDP) during the same period. The country's tourism industry has become a new growth point in the national economy.

Swift infusion of cash

China has moved quickly from being 20th to 11th, to the third largest economy in the world. How did this happen? Since the adoption of China's Reform and Opening Up Policy in 1978, foreign investment has been invited and welcomed. Factories have been built. While Chinese workers are models of diligence, they also accept the lowest wages in the world.

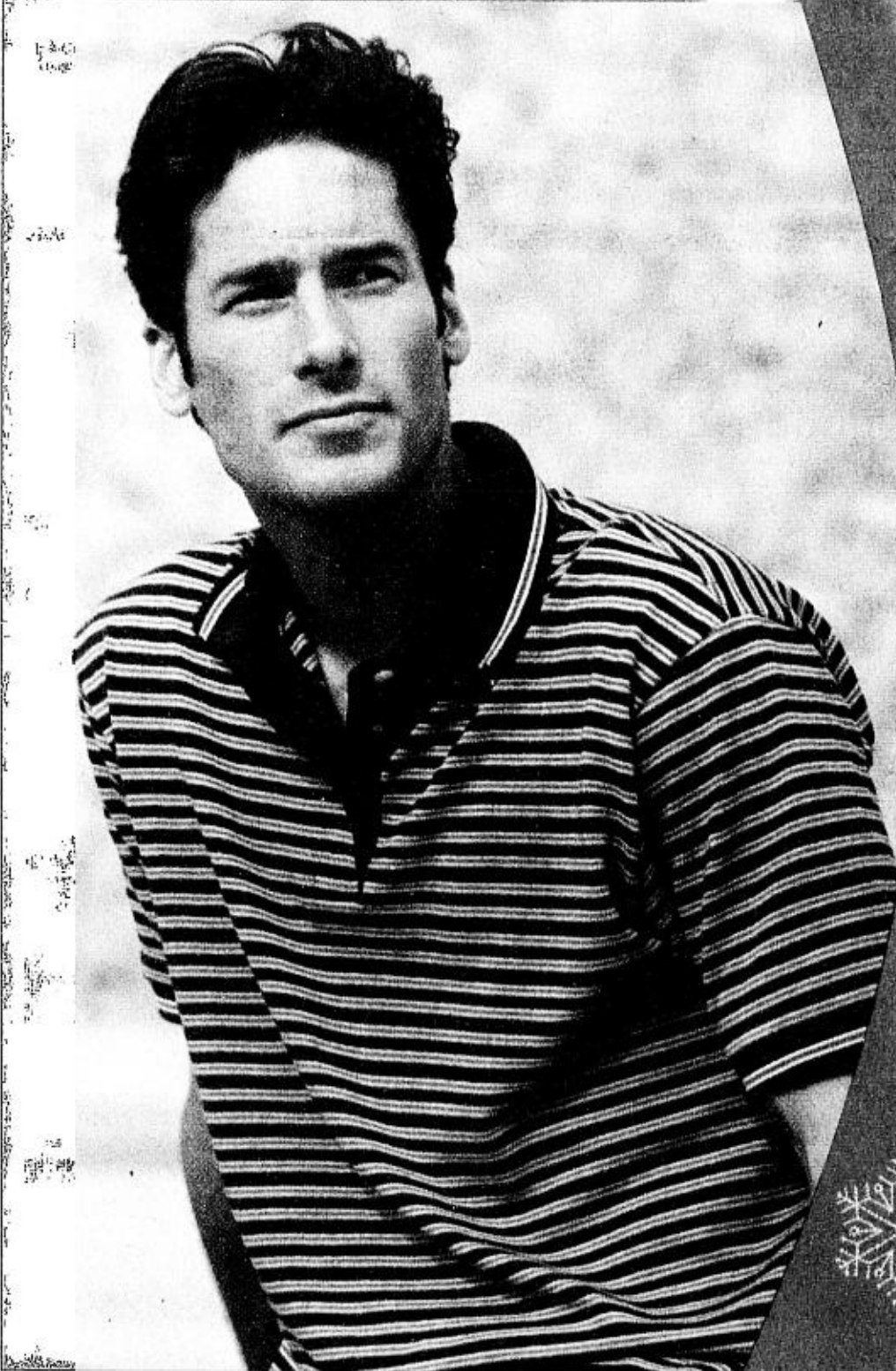
As the world puts China to work, it has been "rewarded" for its labor. Most people reading this are likely to be wearing China-made shirt, sweater, trousers or pair of shoes. Carved Christmas decorations are Chinese. So are tools for do-it-yourself projects, children's toys, bicycles, car tires, jet planes, Barbie dolls and Ninja Turtles. Many Japanese electronic goods are assembled in China.

In the first half of 1990, China experienced almost zero growth and finished the year only about 3 percent ahead. With the economy heating up, its recent annual growth rate is around 10 percent.

The collapse of Eastern Europe and the fragmentation of the Soviet Union created new markets and diverted investments to China. Global recession prompted manufacturers to look for cheaper labor and new and more customers. China, businessman discovered, not only can make electronics, toys and costume jewelry at a fraction of the cost elsewhere but also has hundreds of millions of potential customers. Traditional cheap labor centers such as Taiwan, Korea and Hong Kong were undercut by China's offer of even smaller wages.

The Chinese are happiest when they are ignored. Left to their own devices, they manage quite well, and they are now in the position of being wooed by every businessman and his brother. The intensive Maoist indoctrination they received did not dehumanize them or make them less fond of their families or less respectful of their ancestors.

CHINA/p.F2



top treat

for the holidays



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For DTL-MC8 Part of No.3825 Series of 2001



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P5/minute



- Talk to Jojo Acun and other gifted fortune madams
- Listen to Daily Western and Chinese horoscope
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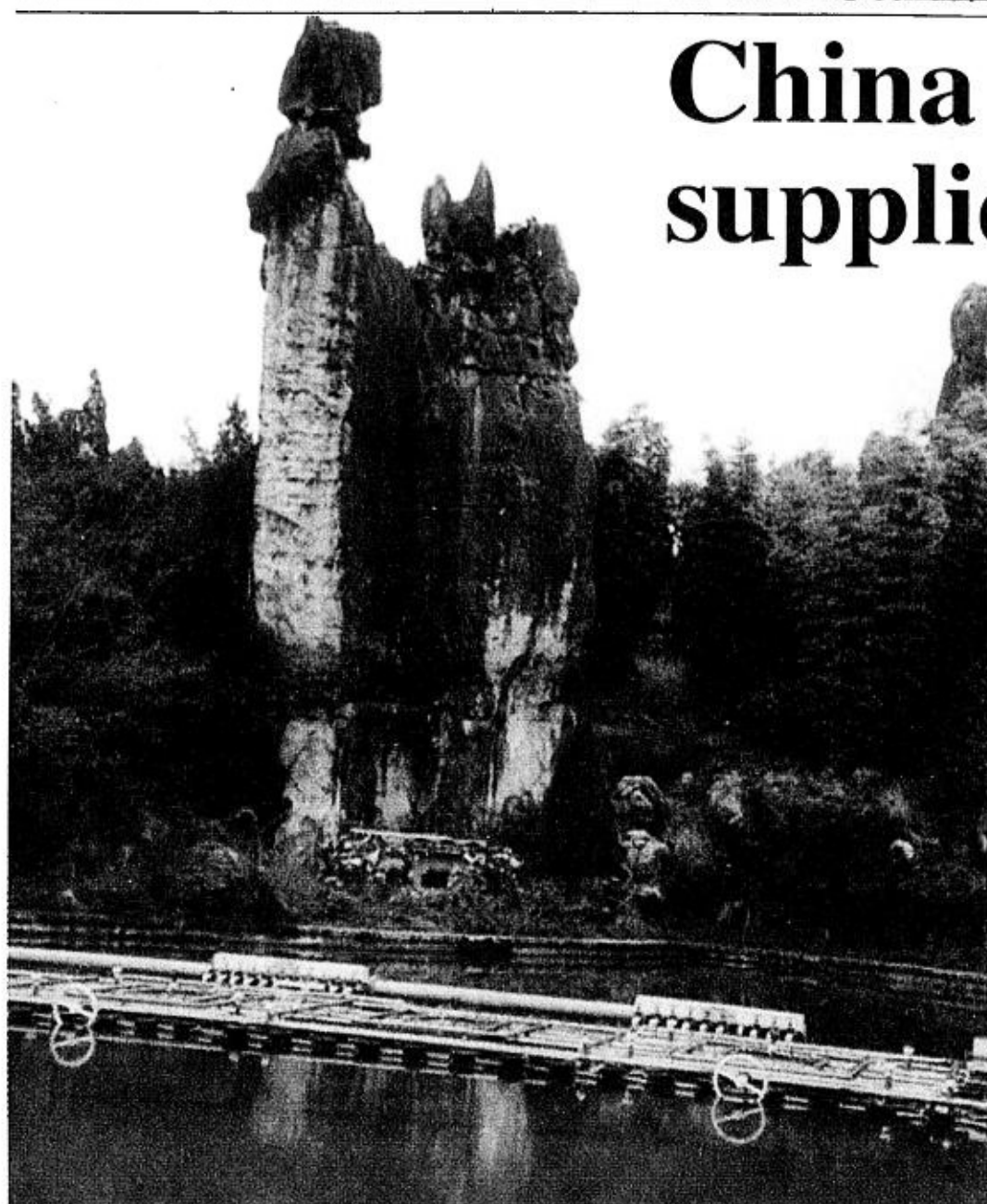
PLDT Touch Cards are available in all PLDT Business Offices, LBC stations, SM Malls, 7-11 outlets, I-mart and other authorized dealers nationwide

TOUCHCARD

The pre-paid long distance call card.

(From page F1)

FANTASY Theater at Merryland Resort in Guilin



ASHIMA at the Stone Forest in Kunming, Yunnan Province



A MARKET in Guilin



TERESA Tan (PAL chief representative and GM-Shanghai and Xiamen) and Oscar Chong (director of Panda Travel Service Inc.) at the Shanghai booth of China International Travel Mart

Offer good from December 1 - 29, 2001

Sara Lee

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DENIM SMART HANDBAG
(33 cm) wide x (30.5 cm) high
ONLY P139.00
FOR EVERY P500.00
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**BUY ANY 1,
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SAVINGS: P100.00

F. COOL SPLASH!
Family Cologne
 Variants:
 Fresh Green, Cool Blue,
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LONG SLEEVES TEE
Cotton blend fabric
with banded cuffs.
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for our weekly
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BABY BATH (No Tears),
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C. COLORFULL
Cake Foundation 15 g
Reg. P155.00
ONLY P89.00
SAVINGS: P66.00

**BUY ANY 1,
GET ANY 1 FREE**
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Lipstick 4 g
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For those who will sign up as new members, we have a special offer. To get your gift, cut the coupon and present to the branch near you, together with the following:

- two (2) passport size pictures
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Be a House of Sara Lee Dealer, call or visit any of our branches today!

[illegible]



Museum goes malling

AYALA Museum is opening its famous dioramas and galleon exhibits to the public on Nov. 27 right at the heart of the Ayala Center.

After 30 years of being in the fringes of Makati's commercial center, the museum has now decided to locate right at the center of retail activity to take advantage of the growing "mall culture" among Filipinos.

Located on the third level of Glorietta 2, just a stone's throw from the Timezone arcade, a computer gaming shop and Toby's Sports Arena, the museum-in-the-mall gives another kind of interactive diversion—a guided tour of dioramas depicting Philippine prehistory and history. For the cost of a movie ticket, mallgoers from all walks of life can view the historic scenes as interpreted by Paete master carvers and take part in learning activities such as pottery making or historical reenactments.

Ayala Museum director, Dr. Florina H. Capistrano-Baker, says: "We want to create a public that visits the museum regularly. The mall location brings fine art and culture closer to the people. It also allows more room for social interaction."

She plans to introduce motion-triggered sound effects, audiovisual presentations and performances such as shadow puppet plays in the future to

give visitors a more exciting museum experience. The Museum Shop will also be open, offering new products such as boat puzzles and pop-up books to initiate young children in art and art appreciation.

Meanwhile, Ayala Museum's art collections and exhibits will be moved to the first floor of the Makati Stock Exchange (MSE) building on Ayala Avenue, making it more accessible to the public and art aficionados alike. The new gallery will host the Fernando Amorsolo and Fernando Zobel collections, the changing art exhibitions, and the popular studio art classes until the new museum is completed in 2003.

The future Ayala Museum will be at the corner of Makati Avenue and De la Rosa Street. It will become part of the reinvigorated Greenbelt complex, which will have as centerpiece an enlarged park. The 6,000-sq-m museum has been designed by Leandro V. Locsin Partners and promises bigger galleries and activity areas.

According to Capistrano-Baker, the elevated walkways will cut through the museum, allowing pedestrians to view paintings and other exhibits. Greenbelt visitors will be refreshed by the museum's vibrant showcase of Filipino art and culture.

The Truth about Losing Weight Fast

The amazing Fruit Acid which attacks and devours fat — is it really the only safe and effective way to slim down?

(...while continuing to eat without dieting)

WEIGHT LOSS SPECIAL!!

Even if conventional means are ineffective in making you lose weight, even if you think you've tried everything, can you answer this question:

Would you like to be at your ideal weight within a month? (in 3 weeks if the number of kilos you want to lose is less than 18 kilos)

You must have heard of these revolutionary fruit acids which have amazing effects on the youthfulness of skin. Their effectiveness is really amazing and unprecedentedly successful in the USA. Today, fruit acids are taking on unwanted kilos using the major discovery of Hydroxycitric Acid, (found in a very rare tropical fruit with extraordinary properties: Garcinia Cambogia).

What you have to know

- The indisputable effect of the new fruit acid on your weight is scientifically PROVEN.
- This "Fruit Acid" helps people slim down (or stay slim) who have never slimmed down before
- You can lose 1 to 3 kilos (or more) the very first week and finally have the body you dreamed of
- You can eat what you like, whenever you like

Our scientists themselves know it

All our scientists know very well that their American colleagues have established the amazing slimming action of Hydroxycitric acid. Their recent discoveries prove indisputably that this fruit acid increases thermogenesis, inhibits lipogenesis and naturally reduces appetite. Not only, you don't store new fat, but you also burn the



stored fat you hold in reserve, even if it has been there for several years.

You will lose weight almost inspite of yourself

This extraordinary fruit acid (sold under the name "Mag Tab") that you can order right now for a free trial*) is a formidable fat-devouring acid which naturally reduces your appetite and helps you slim down confidently, knowing that you will lose weight without hunger or fatigue.

Tests conducted on 11 cases and 2 exceptional cases: NO FAILURES

A test was carried out on men and women of all ages who needed to lose 5 to 25 kilos in 30 days. Success in 99.8% of cases. The most amazing aspect is that 6 months later none of them have taken on new weight.

Even people who had never lost weight before did this time. Even those who thought their case was hopeless and believed in nothing any more lost their excess weight.

Even better. André, 40, 1.84 m, 146 kgs, and Gisèle, 32, 1.62 m, 95 kgs are two special cases. For 10 years they had tried all sorts of experiments. For 10 years they could not lose more than 3 kilos per month. Suddenly, this simple experiment started helping them to lose weight. They lost up to 25 kilos a month until 2 months later they were at their ideal normal weight for the first time in their lives.

Visible results right away

All you have to do is take two tablets three times a day 15 minutes before each meal. While changing nothing in your eating habits, without hunger or fatigue, you will slim down gradually and steadily by 500 g to 1.2 kg per day the first week. Then you will lose between 2.8 and 5 kgs per week to quickly reach your ideal weight. The results will be visible in the first few days. You will see very quickly that your body is becoming slimmer and slimmer until it reaches its ideal shape. Then, with the Hydroxycitric acid acting directly on the "absorption/combustion" balance of your body fat, your weight will remain steady with no new weight gain.

The trial is totally free

All you have to do is check the number of kilos you wish to lose on the coupon opposite and mail it today. You will receive together with your order a complimentary free trial cure. You will be able to see, free of charge, the results on yourself and without the slightest risk and lose weight immediately.

Use the entire trial package, you owe us nothing, not now, not later.

If for any reason you don't immediately start losing weight, just return to us your unopened treatment and receive a full refund as quickly as possible. Of course, we wouldn't take the risk of disappointing you if we weren't practically certain that this free trial would prove to you the amazing effectiveness of "Mag Tab".

There is no reason that what works for thousands of others should not work for you. But hurry! Right now, we have only 300 trial packages available. More are expected to come in from abroad in a month only. Write us today to make sure you will be served without delay.

GIFT

If you reply within 5 days, you'll receive an additional bonus — a very specially selected, "jeanless" gift. This thank you present will be yours no matter what is your decision regarding the "Mag Tab" cure.

*No obligation to buy

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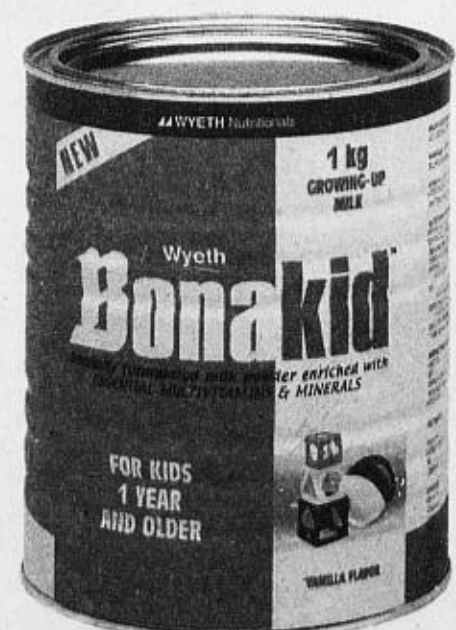
Maraming nag-aakala na ang gatas ay gatas. Pare-pareho lang ang sustansyang dulot ng mga ito. Pero kung iyong mapapansin sa *chart*, malaki ang pagkakaiba.

May gatas na para sa matatanda at may gatas na husto sa mga bata. Para sa mga bata mula sa 1 taong gulang pataas, hindi matutugunan ng ordinaryong gatas ang sustansyang kailangan nila. Dahil hindi pa ganap ang kanilang paglaki, bata pa ang kanilang mga buto, baby pa ang ngipin at maselan pa ang tiyan.

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Espesyal na alaga sa halagang abot-kaya.

Ngayon, bibigyan mo pa rin ba siya ng ordinaryong gatas?



Baby pa kasi.

TRAVEL

ROSARIO A. GARCILANO

THE AQUINO Center, a steel-concrete-and-glass structure

Somewhere in Hacienda Luisita

BY RODOLFO A.G. SILVESTRE JR.

IT used to be that no one dared stop over at Hacienda Luisita in Tarlac when one went up north, no matter that one wished to picnic *al fresco* under those giant trees that offered sure protection from the sun. That was Luisita, after all, an exclusive domain of the rich and powerful Cojuangco clan, before which loomed a menacing sentry point.

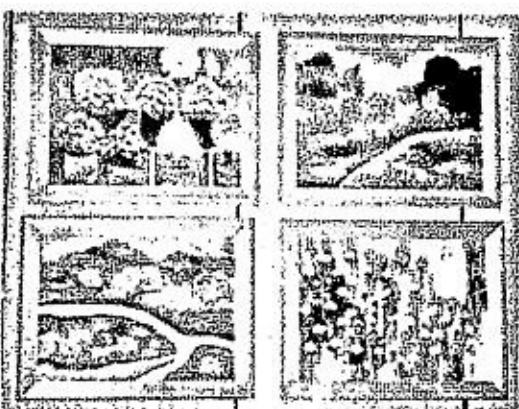
But that was years ago. By the mid-1990s an altogether different image of Luisita had emerged. The Cojuangcos had opened to the public their estate, or at least that part fronting the highway, right beside those sky-high trees. And so Max's, the house that fried chicken built, came in. And travelers in the thousands dropped in daily for breakfast, lunch, dinner and the in-betweens. Then, too, came Pancake House, which is reportedly packing 'em in as well.

To the younger Cojuangcos' credit, they've even developed a high-end subdivision, Las Haciendas de Luisita, where members of Central Luzon's elite, including doctors and other professionals, have bought lots and are building their homes. The effervescent Dolly Cacho Castillejo, for one, didn't mind being uprooted from posh Alabang and getting resettled right beside the fairways of the Robert Trent Jones-designed Luisita Golf Club. But then, you never know with the old rich.

Tarlac is not just melting pot. It is also half-way point to the beaches of La Union, the old brick churches and houses of Ilocos, the piney breeze of Baguio, and the church of the miraculous Virgin Mary in Manaoag.

More, there's finally something else to do in Tarlac, specifically in Barangay San Miguel in Tarlac City. The Aquino Center was inaugurated, aptly, last Aug. 21. And it offers travelers relaxing after a heavy meal something to do other than walk around the Tex-Mex-inspired Luisita Mall.

I had a look-see one gray November morning. After



FLOWERS and landscapes on the painter Cory Aquino's canvases

a good night's sleep at the Microtel Inn & Suites and a brunch of *lengua* and pasta at the Central Park hotel's Bistro Azucar, I took just a hundred leisurely strides, and I was there.

An impressive steel-concrete-and-glass creation of architect Dan Lichauco, the Center houses the Aquino Museum, an audio-visual room, conference halls, a library, a ballroom, and a suite of offices for the staff of the Benigno Aquino Museum.

Although the Center takes a large slice of the plantation skyline, it seems at home among sugarcane fields, maybe because some portions of its roof evoke an affinity with the traditional Southeast Asian home. Surprisingly, it seems at peace with itself, perhaps like a visionary who realizes that the road to the future can be lonely.

The lobby of the Aquino Center displays four large panels, two of them depicting scenes from the time of the murder of Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr. on Aug. 21, 1983. Another one, a moment of

triumph for Corazon Aquino, our first woman president.

Three volunteer guides awaited me at the entrance of the Aquino Museum—Apong Pedro, an old hand of the Cojuangcos, and "fortyniners" Milagros Sison and Rufina Garcia, so called because they belong to Class '49 of the local high school branch of the College of the Holy Spirit.

But I chose to view the exhibit alone. Two clan portraits, of the Cojuangcos and of the Aquinos, greeted me—the first a study in quiet dignity, and the other, in relaxed togetherness, with the subjects appearing gaily, almost boisterous.

But then, that bright, sunshiny mien of the Aquinos was always with Ninoy, who seemed never to lose his humor whether he was lambasting his archenemy at the podium, shaking hands with his constituents, or covering the Korean War as an 18-year-old journalist.

It's all there in the museum—his equipment in



NINYO Aquino in his prime

Korea, including the original Rollex camera, light meter and lens cap; the miniature Legion of Honor that he put on the lapel of his jacket; the medals received from President Ramon Magsaysay when he negotiated the return to the fold of the law of his *kabalen*, the Huk supremo Luis Taruc.

And more photographs of happy times—like his and Cory's wedding day. Cory the bride was charming, and you can still see the blush more than four decades after the photos were taken.

Ninoy had a charmed youth. The youngest governor, the youngest this and the youngest that. He was a recipient of the Ten Outstanding Young Men Award and the trophy is there at the museum to look at.

As is his poster when he ran for the Senate, which highlighted "Youth, Experience, Hope." A reminder of those glorious days of Philippine politics, it hangs alongside some covers of the weekly Free Press magazine declaring him outstanding senator or Man of the Year.

Remember those bombastic speeches that Ninoy delivered? On display in monograph form are such titles as "Jabida—Special Forces of Evil!" and "The New Partnership," "The New (Im)morality," and yes, "A Pantheon for Imelda," a speech criticizing the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

Imelda Marcos is in the exhibit, too—in a flattering light, even. An issue of the weekly Asia-Philippines Leader magazine had her and Ninoy on the cover, with the blurb "What Will Happen in 1973? Imelda for President (NP) Ninoy for President (LP)."

That could have been reality. But Ferdinand E. Marcos declared martial law, and museum viewers will get to see Ninoy's letter to the dictator telling him that "after 43 days of detention, I still have to be informed of the charges against me."

There are other letters from Ninoy—to the com-



MOTHER and Child in the Center's prayer room



AT THE Center's lobby

manding officer of the stockade asking permission to call his son Ninoy on the young man's 16th birthday; to Jaime Cardinal Sin imploring the man of God to lead "our exodus through the desert" with his "deathless legion of kindred spirits, steeped in the belief and in the faith that this life is but a way station in the pilgrim's journey to a world without end"; and to the members of the military tribunal that tried him, challenging them thus: "To acquit me, you have to declare Mr. Marcos guilty. This you cannot do."

Two sections of the museum may well be its major attractions. One, a replica of Ninoy's cell in Fort Bonifacio, contains his bed, typewriter, physical fitness equipment and kitchen utensils. Beside the bed is a "wooden calendar" on which he etched the passing of the days with a nail from 1972 to 1979. A crucifix, passed on to him by Francisco "Soc" Rodrigo when the latter was released, hangs on the wall beside the bed. Also on display are the books that he read while in solitary confinement—among them, "Jesus Rediscovered" by Malcolm Muggeridge, "The Confessions of St. Augustine," "The World's Great Thinkers Series," and Austin Coates' "Rizal—Philippine Nationalist and Martyr."

And also, the things that Ninoy wore and brought with him on that fateful flight back to the Philippines on Aug. 21, 1983—the "Marcial Bonifacio" passport, his watch and wedding ring, his boots, and the blood-stained safari suit.

One is also regaled with a cornucopia of mementos from the "People Power" days right after Ninoy's assassination, including two thick books containing the one million signatures that Cory insisted on as a precondition for her seeking the presidency.

Cory's years as president are represented in another long hallway of the museum, where I could not help feeling elated and even overwhelmed in realizing that there is a reward that follows sacrifice.

Her swords as commander of the Army and the Armed Forces are prominently displayed, and so are the gifts from international statesmen that speak of the high esteem they had for the woman leader. To cite a few—a bust of John F. Kennedy from the Kennedy family, a porcelain egg by Boehm from US President George Bush, crystal by Val Lambert from the King and Queen of Belgium, Limoges porcelain from French President Francois Mitterrand, and a two-dimensional Nativity scene carved in mother of pearl from Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat.

Alongside Cory in the photographs are Nelson Mandela, Pope John Paul II, Mother Teresa, Emperor Akihito and more presidents and members of royalty. In a corner are her "Woman of the Year" Time magazine cover and numerous other covers including those of *Paris Match*, *Asiaweek*, *Newsweek* and *LA Times Magazine*.

It has been a full public life for Cory Aquino. But the Cory few know also dares to be recognized through her painted canvases and plates showing flowers and landscapes. This was my favorite part, as I took time to understand the private Cory who, as shown in some of the poignant photographs, dotes on her grandchildren.

That this is a woman who worked to ensure that future generations of Filipinos would live in peace, freedom and prosperity is shown by the awards and honorary degrees that she received long after her presidency—the Ramon Magsaysay Award for International Understanding, Martin Luther King Nonviolent Peace Prize, and Pearl S. Buck Woman's Award, among others.

It's all here in this museum, where there's no mistaking the connection between Ninoy's life and that of Cory. It's destined, as it were by the hands of time. But we're a part of that bond, too, and there's no taking that fact away from our heritage.

The museum is open to the public Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 2-5 p.m., and Wednesday and Friday 9 a.m.-12 noon. Contact persons are Tana Lapa (045) 985-0968 and Robbie Gonzales (045) 985-1770.

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TRAVEL BRIEFS

Lantern-making contest

IN TIME for the Yuletide season and to culminate its community projects this year, Holiday Inn Resort Clark Field has launched a lantern-making contest dubbed "Pasko sa Nasyon" in cooperation with Citibank and Medicaid.

The contest is open to all schools in Dau and Mabalacat towns and Angeles City. It is aimed at bringing students and teachers together in a friendly competition that would give them a chance to win prize money for use in their Christmas celebration or the improvement of their schools.

For entry forms, interested students may visit the principals of schools in Angeles, Mabalacat and Dau.

'Christmas wish'

DUSIT Hotel Nikko is offering a "Christmas Wish Room Package" valid from Dec. 7 to Jan. 15.

The P2,200 net package includes an overnight accommodation for two adults and two children in a deluxe Room; late check-out of up to 3 p.m.; Christmas treats for kids in every room; complimentary use of health club facilities and swimming pool; and more special surprises on Christmas Day.

All Dusit Fountains Manila privilege card members can get an additional 5-percent discount on room rates and a minimum discount of 20 percent in all food and beverage outlets. If one decides to stay for a second night, the fee is only P999 net.

For inquiries and reservations, call 867-

3333 (ext. 3131 to 34 or 3208) or 812-3731, or e-mail resvnmnl@dusit.com.

Destination: Mumbai

THAI Airways has launched its new thrice-weekly Airbus 330 service to Mumbai (formerly Bombay, capital of the state of Maharashtra in India).

Passengers from Manila may take TG 621 every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday departing at 2:20 p.m. and arriving Bangkok at 4:35 p.m., connecting with the

new flight which leaves Bangkok at 7:35 p.m. to arrive in Mumbai at 10:30 p.m.

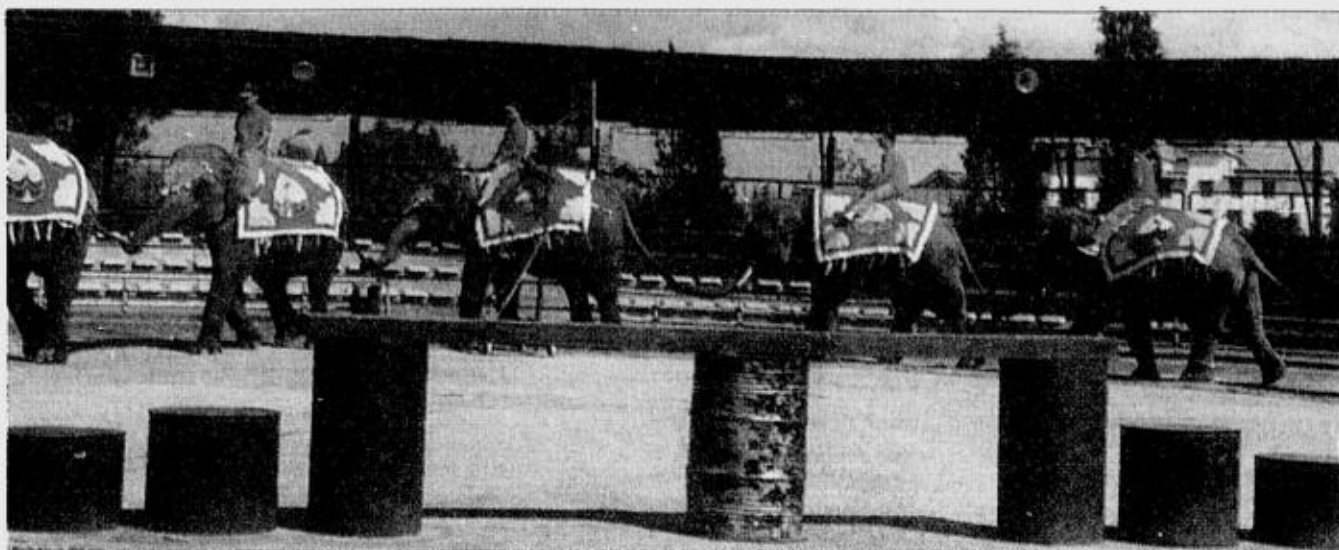
Mumbai, with a population of about 18 million and an area of approximately 170 square miles, is the oldest shipping port of India. It is considered that nation's commercial center as well as entertainment and cultural center.

Thai Airways flies from Manila to Bangkok 10 times a week, and daily to Osaka. For reservations, contact 812-4744 or 243-2645, or visit www.thaiairways.com.

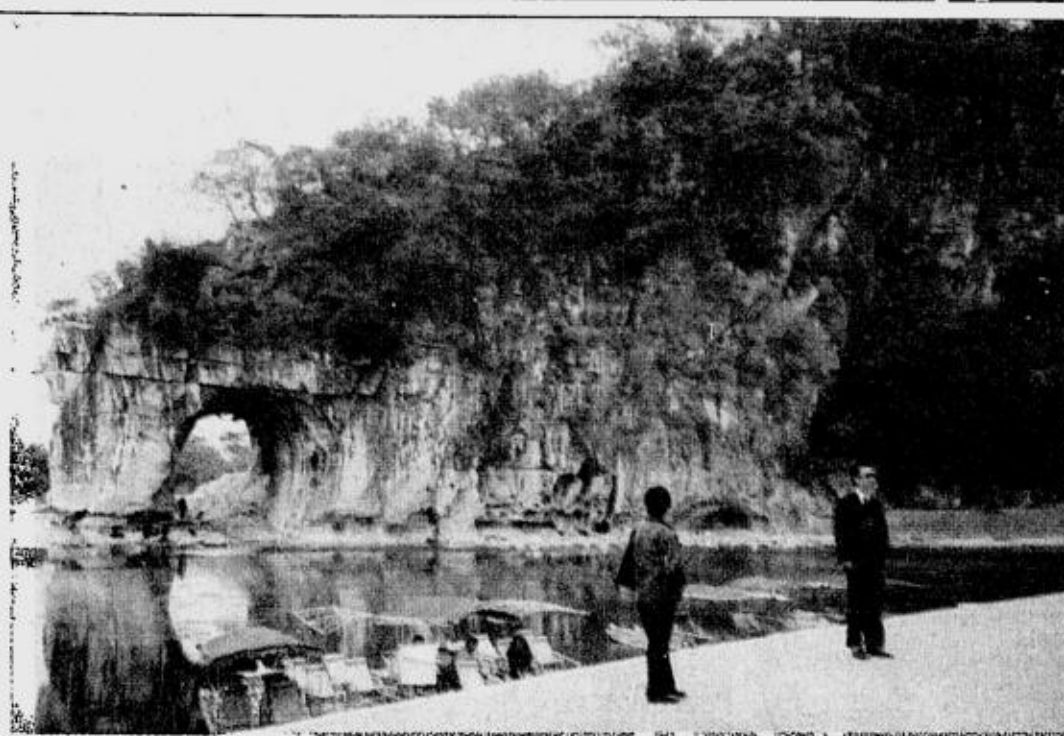


NEW TERMINAL

Terminal 3 of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport is expected to draw more organizers of international meetings and conventions to the country, and eventually more individual travelers. In photo, Rose Libongco, president of the Hotel Sales and Marketing Association, receives information material on the state-of-the-art terminal from Marie Antonette Manalo, public relations manager of its constructor and operator, the Philippine International Air Terminals Co. Inc. Others shown are (from left) HSMA's Cherri Pie Pena, Rene Lapid and Lalou Asia (extreme right) and Platco's Moises Tolentino and Tracy Bautista.



PERFORMING elephants at the Yunnan Nationalities Village



ELEPHANT Hill in Guilin

China keeps the world supplied with consumer goods

(From page F2)

Masters of copyright infringement

The Chinese are masters of the art of copyright infringement and have found it an effective way to generate business, make enormous profits and earn hard currency.

At the shops and markets in Kunming and Guilin, the Chinese use trademarks, labels and logos willy-nilly. You don't have to be in China very long to see the rip-offs.

False labeling, especially the label of origin, extends to clothing exported worldwide. The value of Chinese textiles passing through Hong Kong with false labels amounted to \$24 million in 1992, representing an increase of 150 percent. The United States is the world's largest buyer of Chinese clothes, \$4.5 million in 1992. It is known that China's products far exceed their quotas and so many Chinese products carry labels that make it appear they came from somewhere else. "Made in Mongolia" is very popular because little is manufactured in that country of grasslands, yaks and nomads.

Mao kitsch has regained its popularity in China now. You can buy Mao badges, portraits and knickknacks embroidered with the great man in baggy pants. His speeches are back in print.

But visitors have to be prepared though for the absence of politeness—real or faked. Their get-it-now instinct appears to be officially sanctioned. On all our airplane flights to Xiamen, Kunming and Guilin, many unbuckled their seat belts just as soon as the plane touched down, jumped up and staggered down the aisle, to be first off the plane. They gather their bags and move unsteadily down the aisle while the plane was taxiing to its "parking" area.

Apparently learned from periods of extreme poverty, it seems to have become instinctive to push toward any door, any vehicle, any ticket window; shoving is the only way forward. So China is an experience of elbows.

Interesting sights

In "atheistic" China, pagodas, which are always found near towns and cities, have a spiritual function. They control the feng shui of a place; they balance the female influence of the yin (darkness) and the male influence of the yang (light).

Constructed between 823 A.D. and 895 A.D., the Three Pagodas of Chongsheng Monastery located in the old town of Dali symbolize the ancient architectural and cultural arts of the Bai people.

Yunnan has developed tourism projects to draw sightseers such as the World Horti-Expo Garden in Kunming, the Stone Forest, Yunnan Nationalities Villages, the Jade Dragon Snow Mountain in Lijiang and the Menglun Tropical Botanical Garden in Xishuangbanna.

In Guilin, there's the 83-kilometer Li River, Reed Caves, Fupo Hill, Elephant Hill and Merryland Resort.

For the past decades, books on the new China have appeared. China is too vast, too changeable a world, to be summed up. It needs to be explored at length. Phenomenal is probably a word one can easily apply to this country of more than a billion people.

The China tour on Nov. 6-15 was sponsored by the China National Tourist Office in Singapore, China International Travel Service and Panda Travel Service Inc.

E-mail the author at rburgos@inquirer.com.ph

Shopping haven for bargain hunters

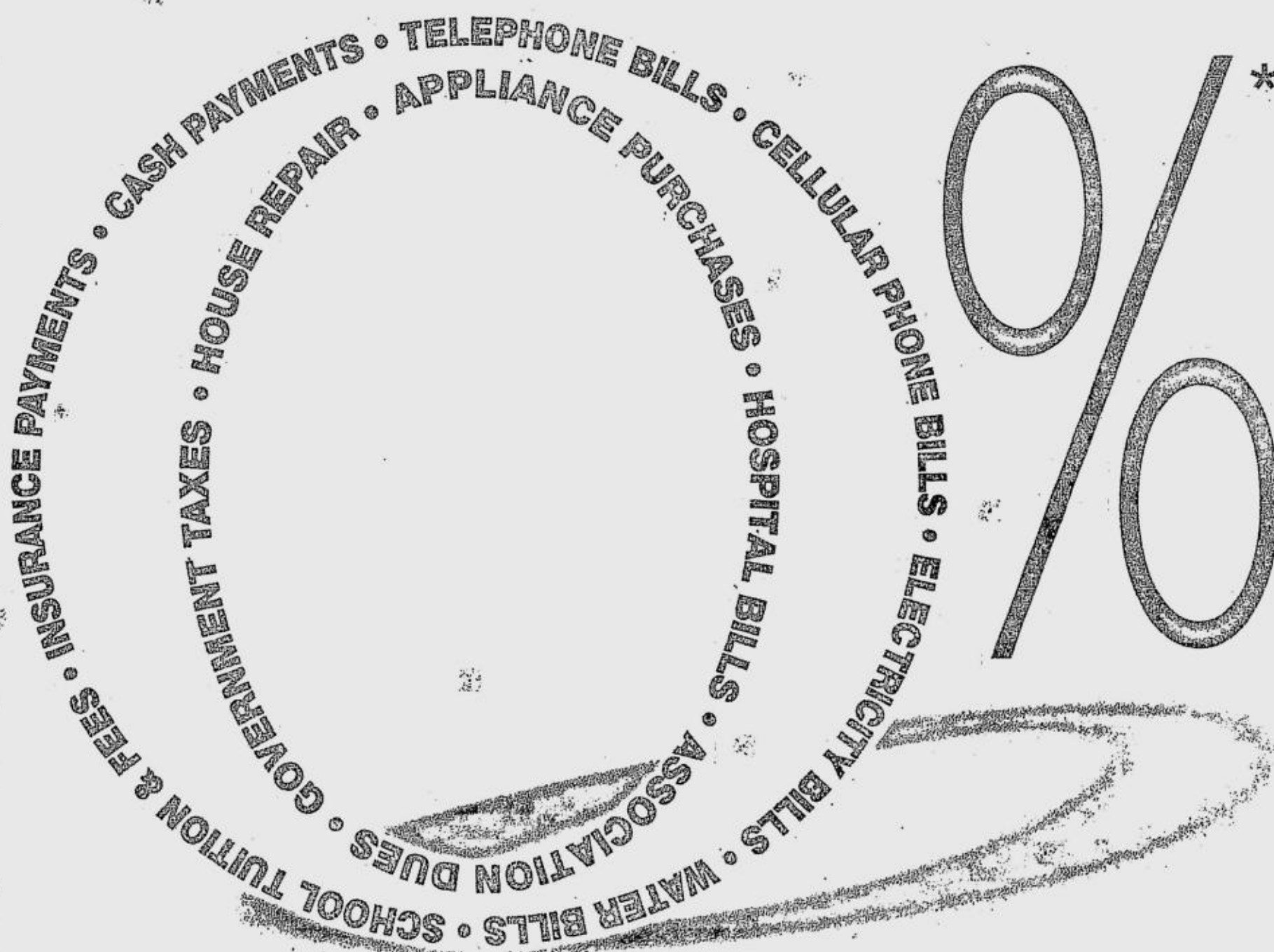
ENJOY the best bargains today as Karl Edward presents its "Shoppers Discount Bazaar" at Dusit Hotel Nikko. The bazaar offers reasonably priced items for the budget-conscious holiday shopper. With Christmas just a few weeks away, this is the right time to purchase items for the home, as well as stylish gift items for your family and friends.

"Shoppers Discount Bazaar" will gather the country's top importers and exporters in Dusit Hotel's ballroom. Get the best bargains in men's, ladies and children's garments, toys, children's books, novelty items, fashion accessories and home decor.

Karl Edward offers one-of-a-kind weekend bazaars. On Nov. 30, Dec. 1 and 2, the "Import, Export" bazaar will take place at Dusit Hotel ballroom. "Shop @ the Fort" continues at the NBC Tent on Dec. 8, 9, 15, 16, 22 and 23.

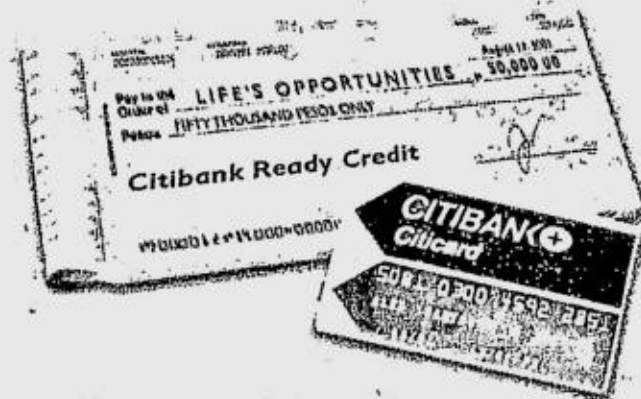
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Sound of music fills Cebu



THE PPP faculty with their instruments at the lobby of the Cebu Plaza Hotel: from left, Jeffrey Solares, Ariel Perez, Robert del Rosario, Melissa Exmundo, conductor Chino Toledo, Ingrid Sala Santamaria, Misako Endo, Masayuki Nishimura and Virgilio Ylaya

THERE'S been lots of music in Cebu lately, and there'll be more to come.

From Canada came the Toronto Cantata Chorus. Honorary consul Robert and Anna Lee had been preparing for this for a year. Their daughter, Aileen Lee, who sings like an angel, is the chorus president. It meant a lot to them to perform here.

The chorus' first concert was held at the Children's Shelter, an orphanage that also receives abandoned babies, many of them disabled, which is also the beneficiary.

The gala, held in cooperation with the Arts Council at the ballroom of the Cebu Plaza Hotel, was standing-room-only. Conducting the chorus and the chamber ensemble from the Peace Philharmonic Philippines (PPP) was Prof. Tak-Ng Lai, who wore the unmistakable attire of a Rizal Knight. He is a member of the Canada chapter.

The following evening, the Shangri-La's Mactan Island Resort and the Canadian Embassy presented the chorus during a dinner gala, which was part of a Canada food festival. The occasion was excellently planned by general manager Ben Bousnina, marketing director Maggie Garcia, press relations manager Neil Rumbaon, food and beverage director Mark Kirk and Europa's Markus Stern.

Aileen brought the house down with "Sa Kabu-

CEBU CEBU

Jaime Picornell



kiran." She also did a duet with Valentin Uy. The program included Cebuano songs, familiar tunes from "Phantom of the Opera" and "Sound of Music," the world premiere of "Earth Voices" and John Rutter's "Magnificat."

The audience was thrilled to meet Philip McConnell, who composed "Earth Voices" especially for this tour, with lyrics from a poem of the same title by Canada's unofficial poet laureate, Bliss Carman (1861-1929). Another SRO performance was held one morning at the Ayala Center's Cinema I for students. It was sponsored by the Arts Council whose chair for this activity was Elvira Lu Ym.

To and from HK

Cathay Pacific, which brought the Toronto Cantata Chorus to Cebu from Canada, flew the group to Hong Kong where it performed a program of strictly religious music at the Roman Catholic Cathedral.

From the Czech Republic, via Hong Kong—and also on Cathay Pacific—came one of the world's best, the Suk Chamber Orchestra named after Josef Suk, Dvorak's son-in-law and regarded as one of the brightest stars of Czech music. The orchestra's visit coincided with the celebration of the Czech Republic's National Day bringing to Cebu Ambassador Stanislav Slavichy and his wife Binh, their son Mark, and the Embassy's charming second secretary, Katerina Vokkova.

A preperformance reception was held at the Cebu City Marriott Hotel sponsored by the Cheese & Wine Club, with Dondi and Corinne Joseph, and attended by Mayor Tommy and Margot Osmeña. It was another brilliant event for the Arts Council. Vice presidents Maxwell Espina and Vivina Yrastorza were very much in evidence, as was the event's chair Francis Onglatco, who was with wife Joyvic.

Venue for the Suk Chamber Orchestra concert was the ballroom of the City Sports Complex. The performance started with Josef Suk's "The Meditation on St. Wenceslas Choral," followed by a breathtaking rendition of Dvorak's "Serenade for Strings Op. 22." A brief intermission followed. Everyone rushed to the front desk to buy CDs of the group.

More astounding

What followed was even more astounding—Vivaldi's four seasons concertos that celebrate Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter. The exquisite Hong Kong violinist Jue Yao was soloist. Her violin was definitely magical. The great-master Isaac Stern gave it to her knowing full well it would be used to great advantage.

After a well-applauded performance, Ms Yao obliged with an encore, the second movement from "Winter," then the last movement from "Summer" as the applause increased even more. Kudos to Ludmila Vybiralova, violin and manager; Martin Kos, violin and orchestra leader; violins Dana Klimakova, Tomas Brummel, Jakub Jansky, Martina Zuzakova, Jaroslav Simacek; David Fendrych, double bass and viola; violas Filip Kimel, Vladimir Kroupa and Vilem Kijonka; cellos Tomas Strasil and Hana Hasplova; Jaroslav Prikryl, continuo; and Dr. Vavlav Bechyn, manager.

From our very own Salvador and Pilar Sala Foundation came the 10th annual Music Festival in honor of Pilar Blanco Sala. Among the various events of the festival three stand out for their significance.

First is the Young Pianists Recital at the Cebu Provincial Capitol's social hall, in association with the Piano Teachers Guild of Cebu headed by Pilar Cusi, president.

Ingrid Sala Santamaria, chair of the Sala Foundation, recalled how her late mother Pilar founded the Battig Piano School in 1945. Hence the development of piano excellence in the young is something she would have approved very much. Mila Nadala, the event director, presented the best of her group—Ghiyll Pangan, Frances Oyao, Abner Bono, Efren Pangan, Donna Bugarin and Jovelyn Yu.

Fe Reyes presented Charmaine Varquez, Daryl Lim, Rina Lim, Mario Romano and Miracle Romano; Jose Mari Formoso, Abigail Dizon; and Remedios Luardo, Christine Marie Uy.

Good start

The Peace Philharmonic (PPP) Chamber Classic Series was off to a good start at the grand ballroom of the Cebu City Marriott Hotel. Sala Foundation president Susan M. Sala welcomed guests. The hotel's general manager Christine Wasly, addressing a full house audience, said it was a dream come true for her. Those of us listening to the orchestra were stunned by the beauty of the sounds brought about by an excellent conductor, Jeffrey Solares.

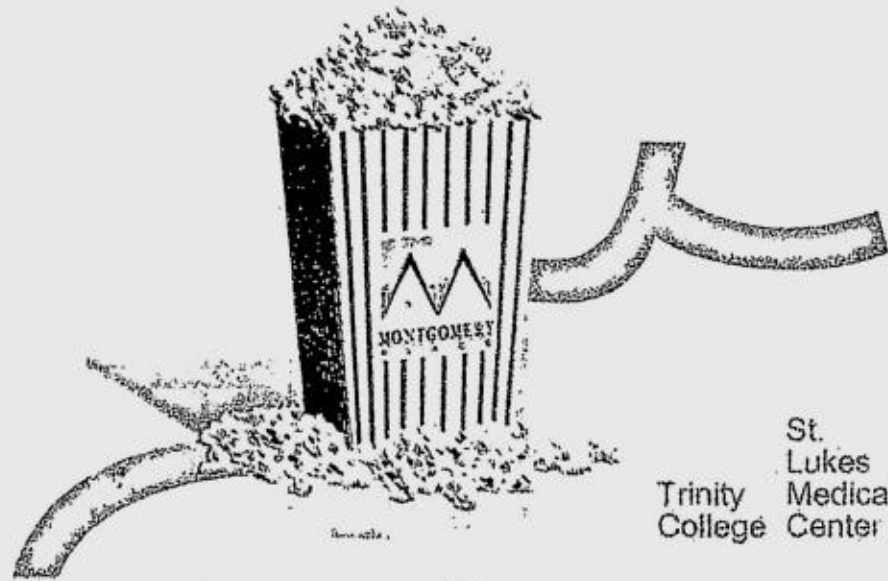
In the first part, the group played Grieg's "Aus Holberg Zeit Op. 40," Telemann's "Concerto for 4 Violins," a score-perfect "Brandenburg Concerto No. 3" by Bach. The finale was Mozart's "Sinfonia Concertante for Violin and Viola." Excellent soloists were teenage prodigies Brian Cimafranca (violin) and Gerry Varona (viola).

"They play better than I," said their teacher Jeffrey Solares, who admitted that they did not expect the deafening applause, shouts of Bravo, and enthusiastic requests for an encore. "We have not prepared one," he apologized. Maybe next time when the PPP Chamber Classics has its Christmas concert at the Marriott on Dec. 17.

The entire PPP showed up in their 3rd World Peace Concert that closed the music festival at the grand lobby of the Cebu Plaza Hotel conducted by their music director, Prof. Chino Toledo. The event was dedicated to the friendship between the Philippines and the Netherlands. Cebu City's Dutch sister, Haarlemmermeer, sent a magnificent golden harp to the PPP.

Madonna Punsalang, by special arrangement with the San Miguel Philharmonic, did solo numbers with that harp. The audience rose to its feet with the PPP's rendition of the "Ave Maria" as a prayer for peace on Earth. The program also included Schubert's "Unfinished Symphony," Telemann's "Concerto for Viola in G Major," Milhaud's "Le Beouf Sur Le Toit" and "Prairie Night" and "Celebration Dance" from Aaron Copland's "Billy the Kid." The PPP's next World Peace Concert is on Dec. 7 at the same venue.

Live here and get home in time to watch more than just the late evening news.



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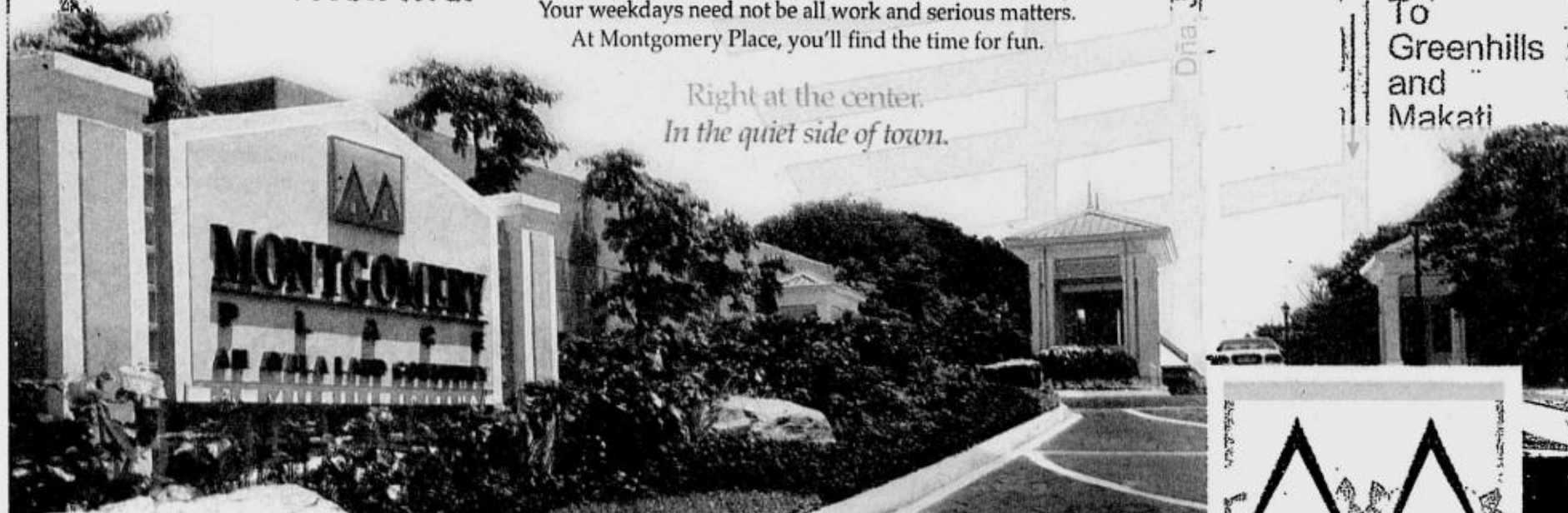
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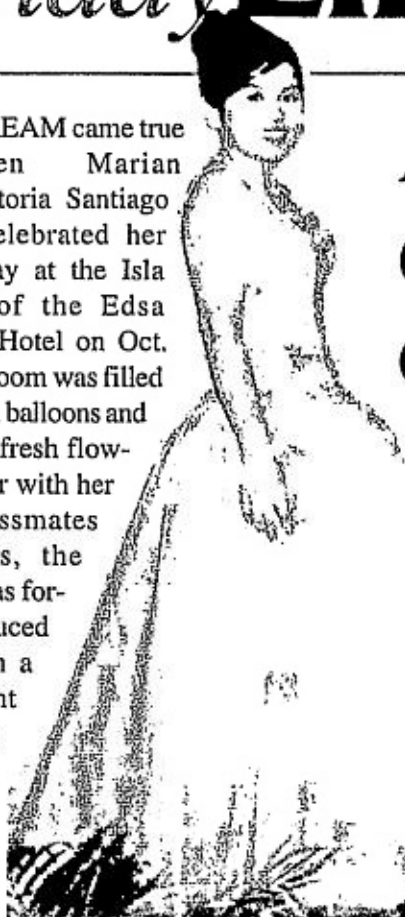
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Sunday LIFESTYLE

A DREAM came true when Marian Victoria Santiago de Leon celebrated her 18th birthday at the Isla Ballroom of the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel on Oct. 19. The ballroom was filled with bubbles, balloons and the smell of fresh flowers. Together with her family, classmates and friends, the debutante was formally introduced to society in a special night of dancing, singing and fun. She is the only girl of Mr. and M



A debutante's dream comes true

MARIAN Victoria Santiago de Leon

Margot Esplana, who was also the emcee, along with Noel Lapuz. The debutante was serenaded by the Ateneo College Ministry Group and the Santolan Youth Choir. Marian, a graduate of Miriam College, is a freshman at the Ateneo de Manila University, where she is taking up business administration.

Willardo de Leon. Marian wore eight elegant gowns designed by her mother, Milagros Santiago de Leon. These were used in the affair's production numbers. Her brothers, Martin Domingo and Miguel Antonio, were her escorts. The night would not have been complete without the traditional *cotillion de honor*, which was the highlight of the celebration. This was all choreographed by Wings and Motion Productions Inc., headed by

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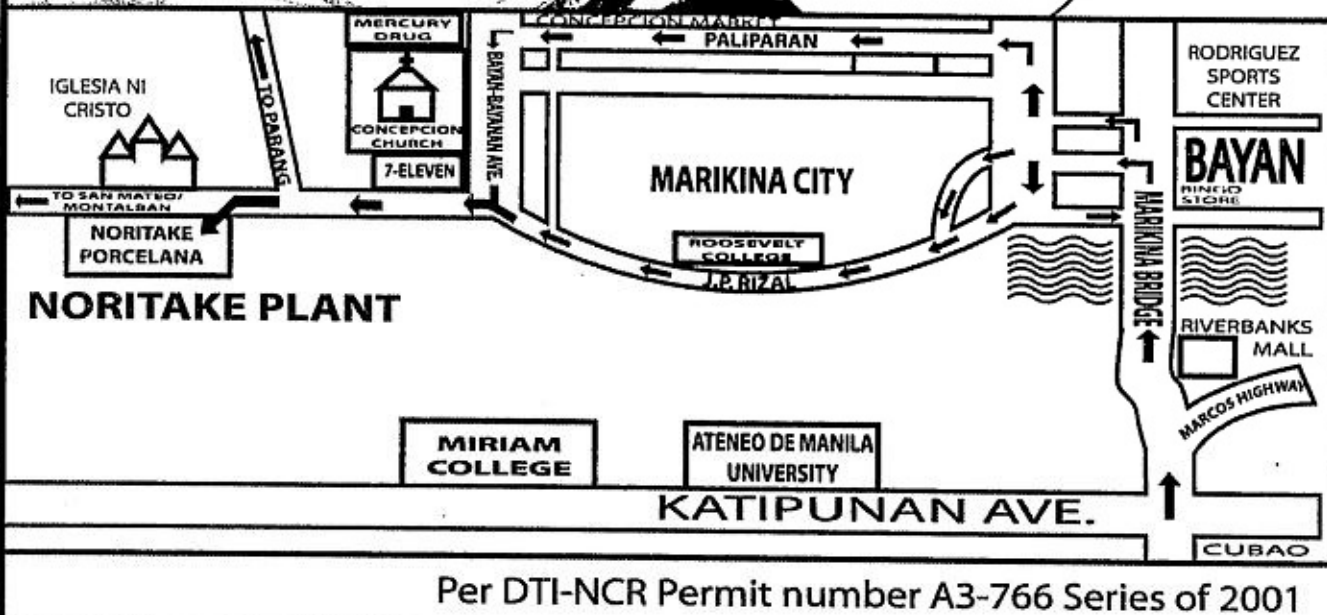
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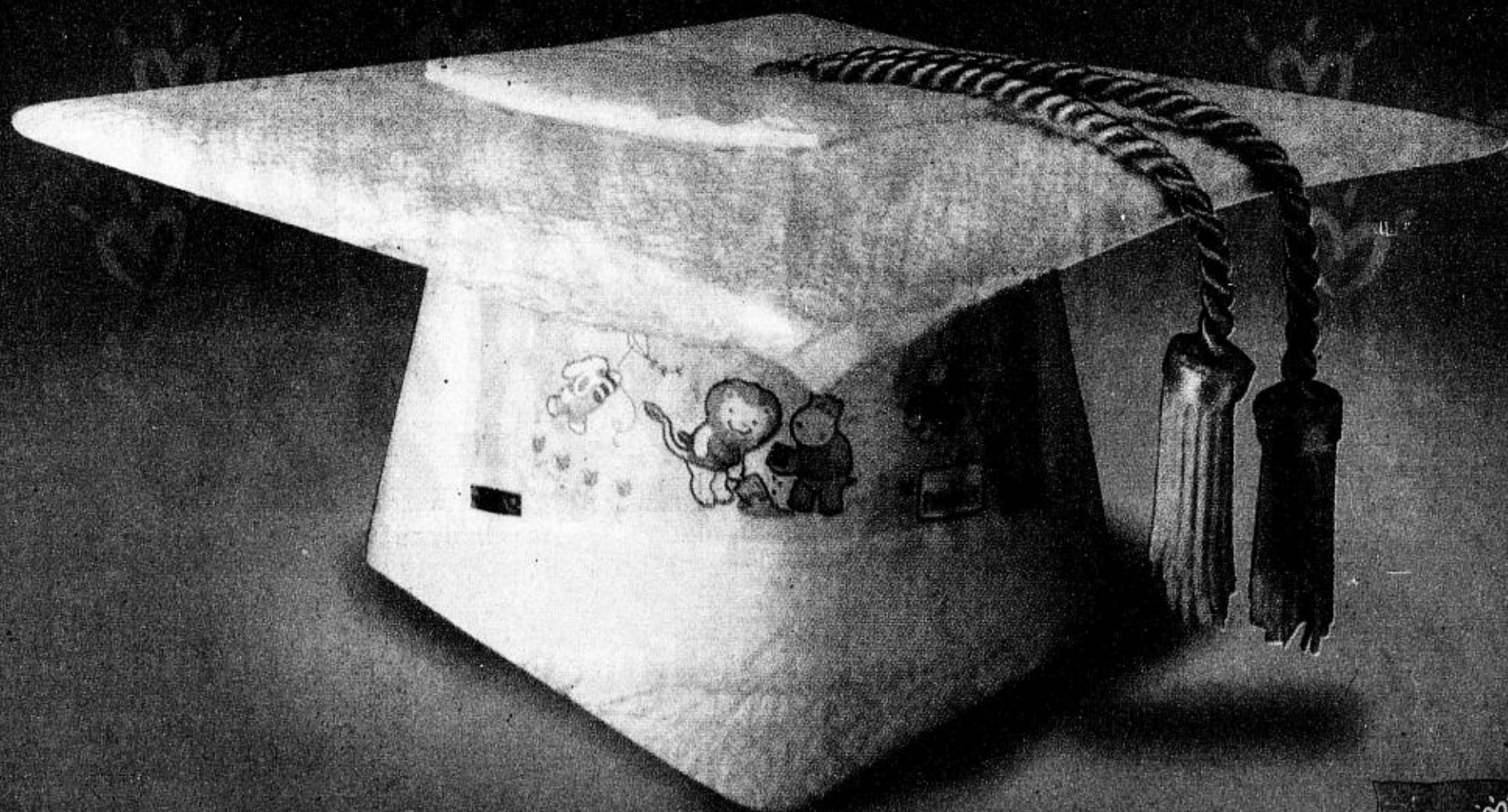
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Per DTI-NCR Permit number A3-766 Series of 2001



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MECHANICS

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• Birthdate of Father/Mother • Baby's birthdate and age
• Residential address • Signature of Father/Mother
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2. Attach one pack of Pampers Baby Dry or Pampers Comfort pack of 4s or more, or four singles packs together with the entry and place in a plain white envelope. Drop entries at dropboxes located at selected supermarkets nationwide.
3. You also have the option to mail your entries to:
Pampers "Baby Scholars" Raffle Promo
P.O. Box 2998-1109, Q.C. Central Post Office
4. Deadline for submission of entries are as follows:
• First draw: December 22, 2001
• Second draw: February 15, 2002
5. Both draws will be held at Eat Bulaga. Schedule of draws as follows:
• First draw: January 5, 2002
• Second draw: March 2, 2002
6. Prizes at stake are 100 CAP College Educational Grants (14 years maturity, CFFP. Details subject to CAP policies/rules/regulations) to be divided into the two draws.
• First draw: 20 Winners
• Second draw: 80 Winners
7. Non-winning entries in the first draw shall be qualified for the second draw.
8. All prizes are tax-free. Procter & Gamble Distributing (Phils.), Inc. shall shoulder all necessary taxes.
9. The prize is transferable but not convertible to cash. The prize can be availed after 14 years.
10. Winners will be notified by registered mail.
11. To claim their prize, the winner must present their letter of notification together with a valid identification (e.g. Driver's License, Philippine passport, company ID) to Ace Saatchi & Saatchi (Marketing Services Department), 10th Flr, Feliza Building, 108 Herrera Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City.
12. For provincial winners, their letter of notification shall indicate the nearest Procter & Gamble office where they may claim their prize.
13. Winners may claim their prizes within sixty (60) days from receipt of notification. Prizes not claimed within the given period are forfeited with prior approval form DTI.
14. Employees of Procter & Gamble Phils., Ace Saatchi & Saatchi, Promo Dimensions Inc., its PR agencies, including their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the promotion.
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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1727, series of 2001.

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- *Source: AGB TV Meter Mega Manila Household (12 Nov. - 16 Nov. 2001)

He feels guilty for leaving an ex-girlfriend without a formal break-up

DEAR JOE,

Just call me Stephen. I am 27 years old and an engineer for a multinational firm. I have a happy marriage.

My problem is Anne, whom I met before I got married. We worked in the same office. She was my first "serious" girlfriend. Although I've had girlfriends before, Anne was the one that I had planned to marry. I wanted her to meet my parents but she was anxious about it. So I secretly arranged for my parents to meet us and join us for dinner. This offended her.

During our arguments, Anne would always threaten to break up with me. One time, we actually did. Then, I begged her to come back to me promising that I'd change. I tried to control my jealousy but Anne did the opposite.

She became jealous of May, who was very close to me and to everyone else, except Anne. She would tell me that Anne was snobbish. This remark outraged Anne. She would always mention May in our arguments so when I couldn't take it anymore, I decided to call it quits.

Then I had a relationship with Jane, which didn't last long. I went back to Anne. But things didn't go well. I got tired of our relationship that I just left her without a formal break-up.

I was so depressed that I became close to May, who eventually became my wife. I resigned from my job and married her.

Recently, I heard from one of my peers that Anne is still single. Saddened by the news of my marriage, she doesn't want to entertain suitors anymore. I felt guilty that I tried to call her to say sorry, but she doesn't want to talk to me anymore. I didn't bother her again. But a part of me still feels guilty because I didn't get the chance to say sorry. How can I apologize if she doesn't want to talk to me? Is it okay to leave it that way?

STEPHEN

When we decide to marry someone, we

LOVE NOTES

Joe D' Mango



should close the old chapters of our lives. Unfortunately, there has been no formal break-up between you and Anne. You just drifted apart without being certain about the status of your relationship. She was devastated when she found out that you married May because she was hoping that you still might come back.

If it would make you feel better by saying sorry, then do so. If she doesn't want to give you a chance to be heard then send her a written apology. This gesture could bring the finality your failed relationship needed. This could help her take a step forward and move on. This could also relieve you of your guilt that has been constantly bothering you.

I believe in destiny. I believe that there is one person with whom we can share our life forever. There is a reason relationships fail. There is a reason jealousy poisons our feelings. There is a reason for everything that happens in our lives. Sometimes these reasons are difficult to understand. But, there are times when we don't have to, we just have to accept them and live the life that was destined for us. You have found your life. Live it the way you should. Love your wife and find joy and happiness in God's greatest gift—your marriage.

Listen to the full-length version of this story on Joe D' Mango's "Lovenotes" on Wave 89.1.

E-mail the author at dearjoe@lovenotes.fm or visit www.lovenotes.fm

A 26-year-old lawyer is in love with a 50-year-old woman

DEAR Tita Dulce,

I'm 26, and I recently passed the bar. I like classical music, old love songs, quiet places, formal attire. I come from a good Catholic family, have good interpersonal relationships, and I get along well with people of all ages. I'm easily attracted to older people, especially to ladies who are the Maria Clara type.

I have a girlfriend of 10 years, but for six years now, I've been in love with a pretty, single, 50-year-old woman.

She's a teacher in the university I went to. The first time I saw her I was strongly attracted to her angelic face, her feminine way of dressing and, above all, her reserved and modest behavior. At first I sent her anonymous notes and cards, but later I found a way to approach her in her office and talk to her.

Since then we have become friends, and her friends and office-mates became my friends, too. And because I have been visiting her at home, I have become a friend to her family as well. I often call her on the phone, and sometimes she talks more than I do.

She had been my inspiration in my studies, especially when I took the bar. I did well in both because I want her to be proud of me.

I continue sending her notes and poems, which often read like love letters. I have never heard a word of rejection from her. Until now, though, I haven't directly told her that I love her.

We haven't gone on a date. But I won't ask her because I know she'll decline out of propriety. But each day, my love for her grows. I consider her my ideal woman, the

LIVE AND LET LIVE

Tita Dulce



kind who'll be a good wife and mother, and someone I'd like to spend the rest of my life with.

My girlfriend cried when I told her about these, but later she learned to accept that woman as my good friend. If I were forced to choose between them, though, I would choose that woman. Often I think that if I was not engaged, and if she were about my age, then my life would have been simpler and happier. But since I'm already committed to my girlfriend, friendship is all I could give that woman.

But I feel how deeply I love that woman. I wonder if she loves me, too, and I find it hard to accept that fate has not been kinder to my heart.

YOUNG LAWYER

On the contrary, I think fate has been kinder to you more than you realize. Had it been otherwise, then that woman would have remained as an idea and an ideal to you—not the warm, flesh-and-blood presence that she is in your life now.

You wondered: Does she love you, too? She probably does, or she would not have been that warm to you. In private, she's probably tickled pink by all the attention and care you have been showering her. It's one of the biggest compliments a woman in her

50s could receive: a young and intelligent man like you is in love with her.

But she's a very sensible woman. She has reined in her feelings and kept your relationship within the bounds of friendship. As a result, she has avoided bigger problems for you and herself.

A less sensible woman would have easily found ways to prompt you into asking her to a date, which she could arrange to lead to several others. But had your relationship become more intimate and the public judged your relationship scandalous, imagine the havoc that would have wreaked in your studies then, or in your life now as you begin your career. Imagine, too, the vicious public opinion that she, a teacher, would have had to face.

That woman wears well the wisdom she earned in her years. For that she deserves to be loved by you and to be admired by the rest of us. And for that, too, she deserves to be heeded: the two of you should remain as friends. Under the circumstances, that is the best way you can express and fulfill your love for each other.

Loving by being friends is a rather uncommon way to love, I know, but then your love is not the everyday variety, either. It's a special kind, the mature kind, the kind that enables the one in love to see farther than her or his nose.

She sees a bright future for you, and she knows that she can best ensure it for you by moving her love out of your way. And you can love her back by being the success that she wishes you to be.

E-mail titadulce@netscape.net or send letters to P.O. Box 2353, Makati CPO 1263 Makati City, or PDI, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City



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On Nov. 28, 7 p.m. at the Fiesta Pavilion of the Manila Hotel, Baddeo together with 10 other celebrated Quezon City-based couturiers, will present a fashion premier gala billed, "Año... Año 2002." Directed and choreographed by Raymond Villanueva, "Año... Año 2002" is for the benefit of High Hopes Foundation Inc., which is chaired by QC first district councilor Wilma Amoranto Sarino. Call 371-5843/9384.

Conference on teacher's literacy empowerment set

IN ITS desire to help reading teachers update their repertoire of teaching techniques, the Reading Association of the Philippines (RAP) will hold an echo conference on Dec. 8 at the Escalante Hall of the Ateneo de Manila University, Loyola Heights, QC.

All RAP members who are also members of the IRA are encouraged to attend the echo conference since final guidelines for the IRA Reading Conference in San Francisco in April 2002 will be given.

The seminar fee for RAP members is P400 and for nonmembers, P500.

Call Pat Cordero at 823-5077 or Santi Tamidles at 426-6001 local 7154.



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CHOA-CHING

Erwin Choa and Irene Ching will wed today at the San Agustin Church.

Eric Pineda designed the bride's gown in ivory bridal satin, a one-shoulder bodice traced with iridescent sequins, jet beads and Swarovski crystals. The gown also features a 15-ft-long detachable train with a sunburst pleated silk jacquard center panel.

The female entourage will wear satin gowns in monochromatic shades of blue while the groom will wear an embroidered barong in *pita liniwan*. Reception will follow at the Fiesta Pavilion, Manila Hotel.



Milestones

We're accepting announcements of weddings, engagements and debuts. Please send the following typewritten information: names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, gown designer and other related information. Readers can send sketches of gowns and pictures of the couple at least one month before the wedding. This will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the sender.



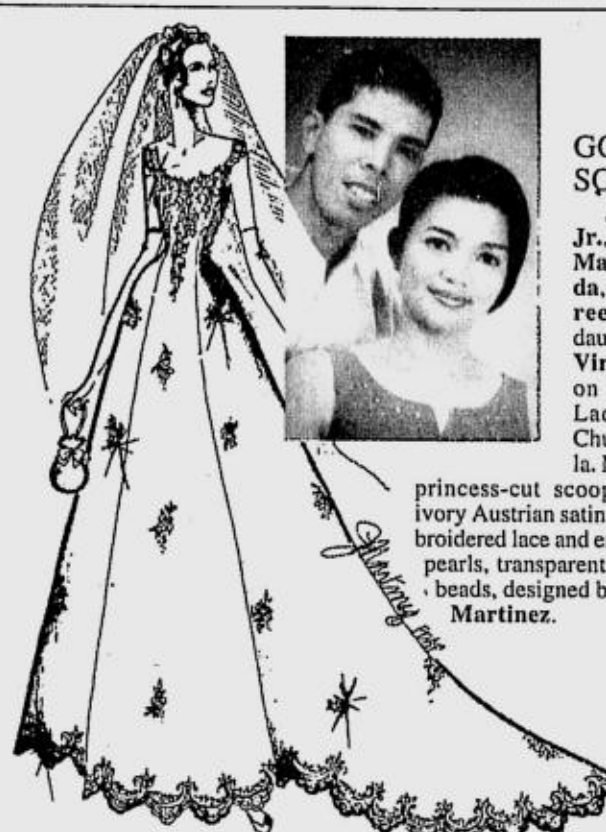
CASTRO-DE LA CRUZ

Arlene de la Cruz, daughter of Leonardo and Clarita de la Cruz, will exchange marriage vows with Romeo Castro, son of Arturo and Lolita Castro, on Dec. 15 at the Our Lady of the Annunciation Parish Church. The bride will wear a beaded off-shoulder corset gown in ecru shantung and heavy lace, designed by Bobby Yalung and Larry Hernandez Jr.



ATIENZA-UBARRA

Arnle Sendico Ubarra, daughter of Arturo Sr. and Nilda Ubarra, will exchange marriage vows with Anthony Atienza, son of Felimon Sr. and Lorie Atienza, on Dec. 7 at the Manila Cathedral. The bride will wear an original design of Edward Teng, a white A-cut duchess satin gown accented with crystals, glass beads and rhinestones. The couple will spend their honeymoon in Hong Kong.



GOLOSINDA-SOTOLOMBO

Jhune Golosinda Jr., son of Felipe and Maria Nena Golosinda, will marry Maureen Sotolombo, daughter of Fabio and Virginia Sotolombo, on Nov. 28, at Our Lady of Remedies Church, Malate, Manila. Maureen will wear a

princess-cut scoop-necked gown in ivory Austrian satin appliquéd with embroidered lace and embellished with rice pearls, transparent sequins and caviar beads, designed by Jontie and Nicky Martinez.

CHUA-SUAREZ

Eduardo S. Chua, son of Chan Yiu Chua and Virginia Sarmiento, and Ma. Charity B. Suarez, daughter of Rommel and Felicidad Suarez, will exchange marriage vows at the Virgen de los

Remedios Chapel 1, Clarkfield, Pampanga on Dec. 8, to be officiated by Rev. Fr. Raul de los Santos. The bride will wear a gown made of duchess satin encrusted with rhinestones and beads, which she designed herself.



DE VERA-MANAHAN

Edward George B. de Vera, son of Eufrosino and Edna Bermejo de Vera, will marry Rowena C. Manahan, daughter of Bernardo and Rosalina Manahan, on Dec. 8 at Barasoain Church in Malolos, Bulacan. The bride will wear a spaghetti-strapped princess-cut gown with plunging back made of duchess satin with floral appliques and embellished with beads, pearls and rhinestones designed and executed by Jhun Calalang, who also did the gowns of the entire entourage. A dinner reception will follow at the Jardin de Sanctuario, Barasoain Church compound.



SALAVER-BAUDILLA

Churchill M. Salaver, son of Antonio and Corazon Salaver, will exchange marriage vows with Elvira C. Baudilla, daughter of Ester de Castro yda, de Baudilla, on Dec. 6 at the Archbishop Palace, Mandaluyong City. The bride and her entourage will wear Rene M. de la Rosa creations.

DE QUINTO-LADAO

John Patrick S. de Quinto, son of Jose and Paz de Quinto, will wed Duchess Benedicta C. Ladao, daughter of Francisco and Josefina Ladao, at the Sanctuario de San Jose on

Dec. 19. The bride will wear an off-shoulder princess-cut gown by Galatea designers Jontie and Nicky Martinez in off-white brocade traced with transparent sugar beads and faux pearls.



Georgios Panayiotou

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Jet Li

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Sunday LIVES



Will somebody please resign for botching Nida Blanca case?

COMPILED BY LITO ZULUETA



ISN'T it only proper for Philippine National Police investigative chief Nestorio Gualberto, head of Task Force Marsha, to resign in the wake of the recantation of Philip Medel Jr.? Come to think of it, isn't it only proper for the top brass of the PNP, the Department of the Interior and Local Government and the Department of Justice to do likewise, that is, if anybody in government has any sense of shame and delicadeza.

The complicity between the PNP, DILG and DOJ in trying to get away with murder is only too apparent. Gualberto was joined in his dramatic press conference last Monday by the bigwigs of the law enforcement establishment such as PNP Director General Leandro Mendoza, Interior Secretary Jose Lina and Justice Secretary Hernando Perez. All of them basked in self-congratulations when they presented Medel, whom they called the self-confessed killer of Nida Blanca to the media.

What is very funny is that they presented Medel without first firmly establishing his identity or even corroborating his confession. In the next days, the investigators regularly talked to the media and proudly announced they had gathered more evidence to back up Medel's claim that Blanca's spouse, Rod Strunk, had hired him to kill the actress.

So when Medel broke down and cried that he had never met Strunk, the public was presented with the sight of a supposed self-confessed killer who was unreliable and perhaps psychologically impaired. If Medel had indeed turned himself in out of remorse and confessed to the crime, as the police had said, it was only proper for the authorities to check the veracity of his claims and the soundness of his disposition. But no, the PNP and the DILG went to town with the story.

The DILG cannot escape blame either. Perez and state prosecutor Emmanuel Velasco should have checked first whether the police had a viable case against Strunk. They cannot just say that the justice department merely holds prelimi-



SHODDY SLEUTH OR CRUMMY COP? Whichever, police investigation chief and Task Force Marsha head Nestorio Gualberto should resign for making the Nida Blanca murder case a shambles.

nary investigation to weigh the evidence and determine if there's prima facie evidence because they were there when Medel was presented to the media. They did not even have the good sense to present a semblance of objectivity in their eagerness to hog the media limelight.

The more worrisome aspect of the scandal is Medel's claim that he was tortured into owning the killing and to point to Strunk as the mastermind. But whether Medel is mentally imbalance or he was tortured by the police to admit to the crime, the fact is that Task Force Marsha and the top brass of the PNP, DILG and DOJ have botched the case. They have made even more remote the possibility of ever solving the case.

Kaya kayong mga pulis at awtoridad, magsumikap kayo...

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covers up blemishes, Obagi improves circulation and helps restore your skin's natural moisture. In just six weeks, Obagi can help correct discoloration, vanish blemishes and stimulate cell renewal to bring back the glow and softness of healthy, younger looking skin.

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In the Philippines, Obagi products are exclusively distributed by Belo Care Center Inc. You are advise to use them only under the supervision of accredited dermatologists.

I invite everyone to try Obagi and experience the difference."

DR. ZEIN OBAGI
Originator of the Obagi Skin Health Restoration System,
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Please refrain from using the **Obagi Blue Peel** without the supervision of qualified dermatologists.

Celebrity soup for the soul

AT THE NBC Tent at The Fort, well-known personalities from show biz, fashion, business, politics and social circles came together for a very good cause. They donned aprons and took part in "Shining Stars," a celebrity soup kitchen for the benefit of children housed by charities, foundations and orphanages.

Over 600 children from Boys Town, Bantay Bata, Reception and Study Center for Children, Silong Tanglaw, Bahay Maria, Lena Buhay Foundation, YWCA, Handicapped Lourdes, Hospicio de San Jose, Asilo de San Vicente de Paul, Kanlungan sa Erma, Nasyon ng Kabataan, Blessed Margaret, Holy Family, Beacon of Light, Pangarap Shelter, Bahay Tuluyan and Masigla foundation were brought to the NBC Tent. There, they were entertained and fed by the hundred-strong group of happy volunteers.

The children excitedly watched puppet shows and bubble displays; played with the mascots (including Ronald McDonald); and eagerly took part in the games and crafts activities. Throughout the afternoon, they were nourished by milk from Nestlé, juice from Eight O'Clock, Ponkana and McDonald's, soup from Campbell's and every kid's favorite—the peanut butter sandwich.

The children also squealed in delight as their favorite celebrities walked in, donned their "Shining Stars" aprons and joined the happy melee. The volunteers served the children food and drinks, shepherded them from activity to activity, wiped a few tears away, accompanied them for bathroom breaks, and generally made sure that all the children were having a great time.

Dinner

Just when the kids were getting hungry from all the excitement, dinner was served, with the always-popular and very talented singer Gary Valenciano leading the children in prayer before the meal. As they were eating, the beautiful Pops Fernandez played host. But the grand finale came when Santa Claus (gamely played by Dish's E.J. Litton) distributed gifts and goodie bags. Sen. Frank Drilon, his wife and daughter played elves and helped distribute the gifts.

During dinner, Pops presented the servers on stage: Martin Nievera, Donita Rose, Kris Aquino, Angeli Pangilinan and her children Paolo, Gabriel and Kiana; Albert Martinez and children; basketball great Vince Hizon and equestrienne Toni Leviste; cool dude James Blanco; Maxine, Jo Aawayan and the children's favorites, actresses Vina Morales, Angelu de Leon, Angelika de la Cruz and Sunshine

Stars from show biz and fashion get to play nannies for a day to orphans and other tykes who need food both for nourishment and for love



THE CELEBRITIES with Sen. Franklin Drilon



ANGELU de Leon serves food for the kids.

Dizon, and basketball star Alex Compton (Alex not only helped during the event, but stayed long after, folding table cloths and lifting tables and props).

Fashion models came in full force: everyone's favorite Ilonggo, Christian Vazquez, Liz Almores, model siblings Robbie, Raya and Rissa



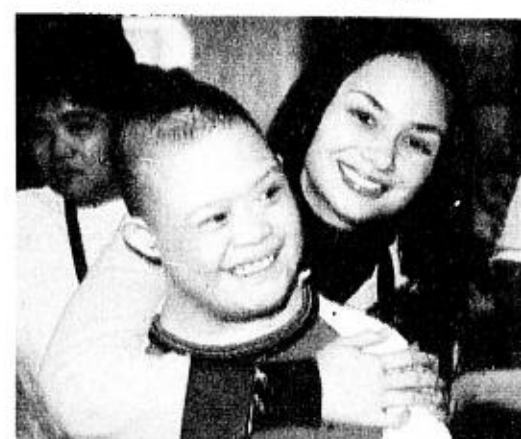
VINA Morales with the deaf and blind kids



ALBERT Martinez and Kris Aquino



GEM Padilla



DONITA Rose poses with a kid from the orphanage.



ALEX Compton



CARLA Tengco with daughter Amanda Tengco



POPS Fernandez and James Blanco

Mananquil-Samson (who brought husband Marzo and son Enzo); Reggie Curley, Greg Marcus, Lucia Santiago and Gigi Gonzales.

Also busy serving were Tina Maristela and Ricco Ocampo of Anonymous with four of their kids; Kitchen and Mangan's Rikki and Beng Dee; Tetia and Giorgio Ortiz of Piadina; talent managers Jodie Dingcong, Jacob Fernandez and Popoy Caritativo; People Asia's Phillip Cu-Unjieng and sons Mateo and Kintin; our palangga Maurice Arcache and photographer Alex Van Hagen; Azurro's Mickey and Sheila Bermudez with their children; pediatrician Dr. Ome Nuguid, Dayrick Tiu, Art and Honey Libao, Jessica and David Bunevacz with children Hycia and Grant; and Melu Abrilla.

Volunteers all

The other volunteers were Al and Carla Tengco and their daughter Amanda; Chris Nieto Lopez, Alfonso Sy, Faye Arellano, Katrina Tuazon, Bea Valdez, Anton San Diego, Jack de Mesa, Monica Eugenio, Sandra Vidarte, Gina Torres, Lea and Aizl Caringal, Mia and Nino Garlan, Mariko Pangilinan, C.J. Juntaral, Teresa Jimenez, sisters Joy, Jenny and Judith Zapanta; Patricia Puyat, Myra Puyat-Santiago, Mitzi Navales, Joann Millionada, Chris Badiola, Trent Frankum, Sheila Lacuna, Pana president Angelica Suiza, Serge Go of Swedish Match, McDonald's Jojo Samson, Gadgets Magazine associate editor Rhea Hermoso, and Chelle Obligacion.

"Shining Stars" is the brainchild of Twinkie Lagdameo, Leah Puyat, Ana Katigbak, Angelette Calero, Eds Genilino, Anton Barretto, Dr. Aye Nuguid, Gem Padilla and Keren Pascual. They got the help of Clarita Nuguid for the transportation; Philip Santos for the lights and sounds; Trish Cu-Unjieng for the balloons; and various contributions from McDonald's, Nestlé, Campbell, Penshoppe, Anonymous, Guess, Dumex, Wyatt Phils., Azurro, Piadina, Kitchen and Mangan.

The organizers hope to make "Shining Stars" a yearly event.



GARY Valenciano helps Santa Claus distribute the gifts.



TINA Maristela-Ocampo with her daughter Celine serves soups.

Andanians hold annual get-together Dec. 8

PROMINENT Pangasinenses are expected to attend the Andanians Christmas party on Dec. 8 at the Camp Crame Social Hall, QC.

Among those invited are Secretary Hernani Braganza of the Department of Agrarian Reform, Rep. Arthur Celeste, former Gov. Oscar Orbes, Andia Mayor Alice Jimenez-Pulido, Fr. Jerry Orbes and Fundador Soriano.

The Andanians Association Inc. (AAI) is an organization of people from Anda, Pangasinan residing in Metro Manila and nearby provinces. The Christmas party was their annual get-together, according to Jessie Cabalquinto Panit, AAI president.

Theme of this year's party is "Be part of Andanians... One Step for Unity." The program includes inspirational talks, singing, dance contests, parlor games, raffle and dancing.

Members of the Christmas party committees are: registration, Liza Caras, Chen Chen Panit and women teachers; program, Vic Abejero, Diosdado Sebrino Jr. and Marichu Lambino; publicity and promotion, Maki Pulido, Eli Canta and Harry Cativo; decoration, Flora Amazona, Mildred Panit, Virgie Panit and Gilda Antonio. Abejero and Lambino will be emcees.

Some prominent Andanians are Rudy Tan Cardoso, first Filipino international chess master; and Dante Castillo and Loreto Racuya, national artists.

Call Jessie Panit at 912-0511 and 913-2373; Rose Calicdan at 417-2991; Teodoro at 936-0345 and 725-2016; Cativo at 527-8421 c/o People's Journal; and Canta at (046) 571-0001 and (0917) 64 82.



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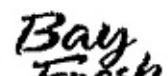
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ABSOLUT

Will somebody please resign for botching Nida Blanca case?

(From page H1)

NBI ruins Mark Chua case

THUMB DOWN EVEN if Task Force Marsha is abolished and the investigation is turned over to the National Bureau of Investigation, the prospects aren't good that the murder will be solved. Remember that the NBI is attached to the DOJ, now known as the Department of Justice. Moreover, perhaps because the NBI has had the misfortune in recent years to be headed by retired police generals, its agents seem to have acquired a taste for falsifying evidence.

Consider the case of Mark Chua, the UST cadet officer who was killed after he exposed anomalies in the Reserved Officers Training Corps program. The last we heard is that the witnesses the NBI claimed had pointed to administrative staffers at the school's ROTC office as masterminds of the killing have recanted their testimonies. In their new statements, they said they had been coached by the NBI during the police lineup to point to the suspects.

Jolly junket

THUMB DOWN THE PRESS delegation that covered President Macapagal-Arroyo's United States trip was unusually large. Even tabloids whose coverage pays mere lip service to politics and economics sent reporters. It would be good to find out some weeks from now how many of those reporters whose visas were facilitated by the US embassy as a matter of courtesy to the Philippine government came back.

True gentleman

THUMB UP PARAÑAQUE Mayor Joey Marquez showed that he's a true gentleman even in times of

crisis.

Last Monday, when Joey's stepson, **Vandolph Quizon**, figured in a road accident in Pangasinan, Joey immediately looked for a helicopter to airlift the 17-year-old Vandolph from the provincial hospital to the Makati Medical Center.

Joey pulled strings and rented the helicopter of former senator **Juan Ponce Enrile**. The chopper took off from the Villamor Airbase in Pasay City, where Joey also helped obtain an emergency clearance from the Air Transportation Office for the chopper to fly at night.

Joey rode on the helicopter with Vandolph's dad, **Dolphy**, and the latter's partner, **Zsa Zsa Padilla**. Also with them was **Ruel Ricaforte**, brother of Joey's wife, **Alma Moreno**.

When they reached the Sacred Heart Hospital in Urdaneta, Joey learned that Vandolph couldn't be airlifted right away to Manila because the young actor-comedian's condition was still unstable.

The doctors in the hospital advised them to decide if they wanted to bring Vandolph to Manila at once.

Joey then called Alma, who was then at the Makati Medical Center gathering a team of doctors to attend to Vandolph.

Joey told Alma on the phone, "I cannot decide. If you want Vandolph to be brought to Manila immediately, you should talk to Dolphy."

Alma and Dolphy lost no time in conferring and decided to airlift Vandolph to Manila right away.

But the doctor also advised that during the flight, there should be a doctor and a nurse on board.

Joey again showed that he was a real gentleman by sacrificing his seat on the chopper. It was only Dolphy who rode with his son in the helicopter. Joey returned to Manila by land with Zsa Zsa.

On their way back, Joey dropped by a Dagupan hospital to check on Vandolph's girlfriend, **Desiree Raquiza**, who was also in a critical condition.

We heard Joey also paid for the

rental of the chopper, a whopping P100,000, for the emergency flight.

Dolphy, meanwhile, reportedly shouldered the cost of another helicopter, which airlifted Raquiza from Pangasinan to the Makati Medical Center.

Rambotito's elevators

THUMB DOWN THE NEW 22-story Makati City Hall is now the envy of cities and municipalities in Metro Manila for its architecture, modern furnishings and stylish interiors.

However, during a recent meeting of Metro Manila mayors at the penthouse of the Makati City Hall, the high-tech elevators broke down.

After lunch in the dining hall on the 21st floor, the mayors were forced to take the stairs going down.

The younger ones such as Navotas Mayor **Toby Tiangco** and San Juan Mayor **JV Ejercito** didn't really mind and merely dismissed it as exercise.

But the aging Pasay City Mayor **Peewee Trinidad** and the overweight Pasig Mayor **Soledad Eusebio** took longer to go down.

So just imagine the embarrassment of Makati Mayor **Jojo Binay** as the mayors were leaving his "modern" building.

Miss Congeniality

THUMB UP IT had been announced that GMA 7 news anchor **Vicky Morales** would emcee the Miss Asia-Pacific Quest coronation night last Nov. 10 at the NBC Tent at The Fort. The announcement was made during the press presentation of the contestants at the Westin Philippine Plaza. Press releases of the coronation night also carried Vicky's name as host.

However, on pageant night, it was sisters **Janice** and **Gelli de Belen** who hosted. They were reportedly last-minute replacements.

When someone asked her why

she didn't host the Miss Asia-Pacific Quest, the "Saksi" anchor was surprised.

"Really? I wasn't even aware of that," Vicky said. "No one contacted me to host the pageant."

Then Vicky humored the writer and said, "I guess it was just a typo error because I should have been a candidate instead."

Free speech

MALLS are usually packed with shoppers' cars on weekends, especially if the weekend comes after payday. Most malls install guards at the entrance of the parking areas to control cars and warn them ahead of time if there are no more parking spaces.

That was not the case at SM Megamall's open parking space near Shangri-La Mall on Nov. 18. There was nobody controlling the cordoned-off entrance to the parking area. There was a long line of cars wanting to park. The guard, who was staying at the entrance booth, informed the drivers that the area was full only when they reached the booth. There was no way for the drivers to turn back since the line was long. So the drivers had no choice but to go in and try their luck. To my shock, the place was so packed I could barely back and maneuver my car out. It took me an hour to get out.

Sad to say, assistant mall manager **Mary Rose Manalaysay** was of no help. She lacked the courtesy and the attitude required of someone in her position. She was insolent. She seemed to imply I was stupid by saying, "'Di ba, ma'am, sinabihan po kayo na puno ang parking?" She did call the security head on the phone to relay my complaint, but her tone of voice was defensive and irritated.

The Megamall management should look into the parking problem, especially since the Christmas season is coming.

(Sgd.) SUZETTE CUERPO



CO-OP OFFICERS INDUCTED

Founding officers of Kabisig Multi-Purpose and Transport Service Cooperative were inducted by Jaime S. Domdom (center), DBA chair, Office of Transport Cooperatives, on Oct. 30. In photo are, from left, Uldarico B. Banares Jr., secretary; Analiza L. Mansit, auditor; Raul P. Roduta, chair; Rome R. Tan, vice chair; Monina S. Bocao, treasurer; and Joaquin Marcelo Jr., director. Other officers not in photo are Herminigildo A. Reyes and Bernardino A. Quinto, directors. The cooperative was set up to provide better transportation services for Cavite-Muntinlupa residents.

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Men desire Victoria's Secret and get ready to wear skirts and expose cleavage

BY ANTON SAN DIEGO

MUST-GO bar. Fidel is the latest bar-restaurant to open in Metro Manila and it gets high marks for décor and cuisine. Markus, Chito, Ricky and Richard, the people behind Firma, own the place.

The cuisine is French provincial and Moroccan—we're talking of tagine of lamb, chicken and beef served with couscous. The desserts are also to die for. You must try the Moroccan mint tea, which is exquisite.

The décor is modern, inviting and cozy, not at all cold. And the true test of any establishment—the men's and ladies' rooms—are dramatic and elegantly furnished. They even have a girl dressed as a French maid, whose duty is to clean the loo!

But there is a downside: the restaurant has glass for walls that allow you to see some unsightly shops like one that sells sexual aids. Oh well, that's commerce and Manila for you. Just enjoy the food and ambience. Fidel is at 1803 corner Maria Orosa St. and J. Nakpil Malate St. with tel. no. 525-9590. It is open



FIDEL offers French provincial and Moroccan cuisine.

every day, except Sunday.

Must-have, must-see. The sexiest night on television is the fashion show of Victoria's Secret, the noted purveyor of lingerie and undergarments for women. Its most recent show was hosted by Rupert Everett (I wonder why) with performances by Mary J. Blige and Andrea Bocelli. The show featured trapeze artists and winged models. Although it is not couture, lingerie fashion is a big moneymaker as well. The new line featured cinched waists and breasts pushed high in white leather and black sequined corsets. Bikinis and thongs with fringes or skirts were worn with sexy laced up Santa Clause boots. The sexiness of the lingerie line explains why Victoria's Secret is popular with both females and males.

Diary of Constance Brooke San Lorenzo Pendleton. This week, our intrepid socialite and ex-Mare rejoices over the triumph of women and one special lady.

"The sight of so many Afghans out on the streets of Kabul cheering the departure of the Taliban has to be one of the happiest sights I have seen in a long



VICTORIA'S Secret as modeled by supermodel Heidi Klum

time. I felt like cheering when I saw some Afghan women taking off their burqas. What a relief it must have been for them to finally shed those awful garments and return to the real world. If only for this, I feel the United States has done a great deal of good for Afghanistan and for women's rights.

"All this reminds me of how precious our freedoms are and how we must be ever vigilant to ensure that we retain them. I was just reading a book about Afghanistan and I was shocked to learn that as recently as 1992, when the Soviets left Afghanistan, women had rights, such as going to school. How swiftly the world had changed for them since then.

"I was very saddened to learn that my Tita Reggie—Justice Regina O. Benitez—passed away a couple of weeks ago at the age of 78. Tita Reggie was truly one of a kind. She first burst into the limelight when she prosecuted the Maggie de la Riva case (the celebrated case of the '60s) and ensured the perpetrators get the maximum penalty for their crimes. She then went on to become a justice of the Court of Appeals, a position she held until she retired. Along the way, she also found the time to raise a family and get involved in women's issues through the National Association of Women. Tita Reggie was tireless and I often wondered how she found the energy for all her activities.

"Tita Reggie was a dame in the best sense of the word—confident, accomplished and self-sufficient. I will miss her."

Will you wear the latest in men's fashion? If some designers would have their way, they would like men to dress like women. It has been done before (remember Boy George and the androgynous look in the '80s and '90s?) and they're still at it in the 21st century.

One of those in the forefront of the look is Jean Paul Gaultier whose dream is to see men donning skirts, which I think is more of a fantasy, especially here in Manila. During looks presented in the Fall/Winter 2001 runways included skirts, shirts showing the cleavage and lingerie worn with suits. The first one I think is pretty acceptable provided you've been working out.

A kinder and gentler nation. The Sept. 11 tragedy has left everyone thinking about the world and life in general. However, two months after the tragedy, it seems like it's business as usual, as if our lives were not threatened to the point of extinction. We need to ask ourselves—are we better, kinder and more gracious? Death, tragedy, loss and pain are everywhere. We need to be constantly reminded that our life is short and the time we have here needs to be well spent.

Two weeks ago, I attended the funeral of a friend. During the Mass, the priest spoke and quoted a song from the movie "Goodbye, Mr. Chips." The lines from the song spoke about evaluating life, being selfless, having a sense of purpose and making a difference. It goes something like this:

"In the morning of my life, I shall look to the sunrise. At that moment in my life when the world is new. And the blessing I shall ask is that God would grant me—to be brave and strong and true. And to fill the world with love, my whole life through."

"In the autumn of my life, I shall look to the sunset. At that moment in my life when my days are few. And the question I shall ask only you can answer: Was I brave and strong and true? Did I fill the world with love my whole life through?"

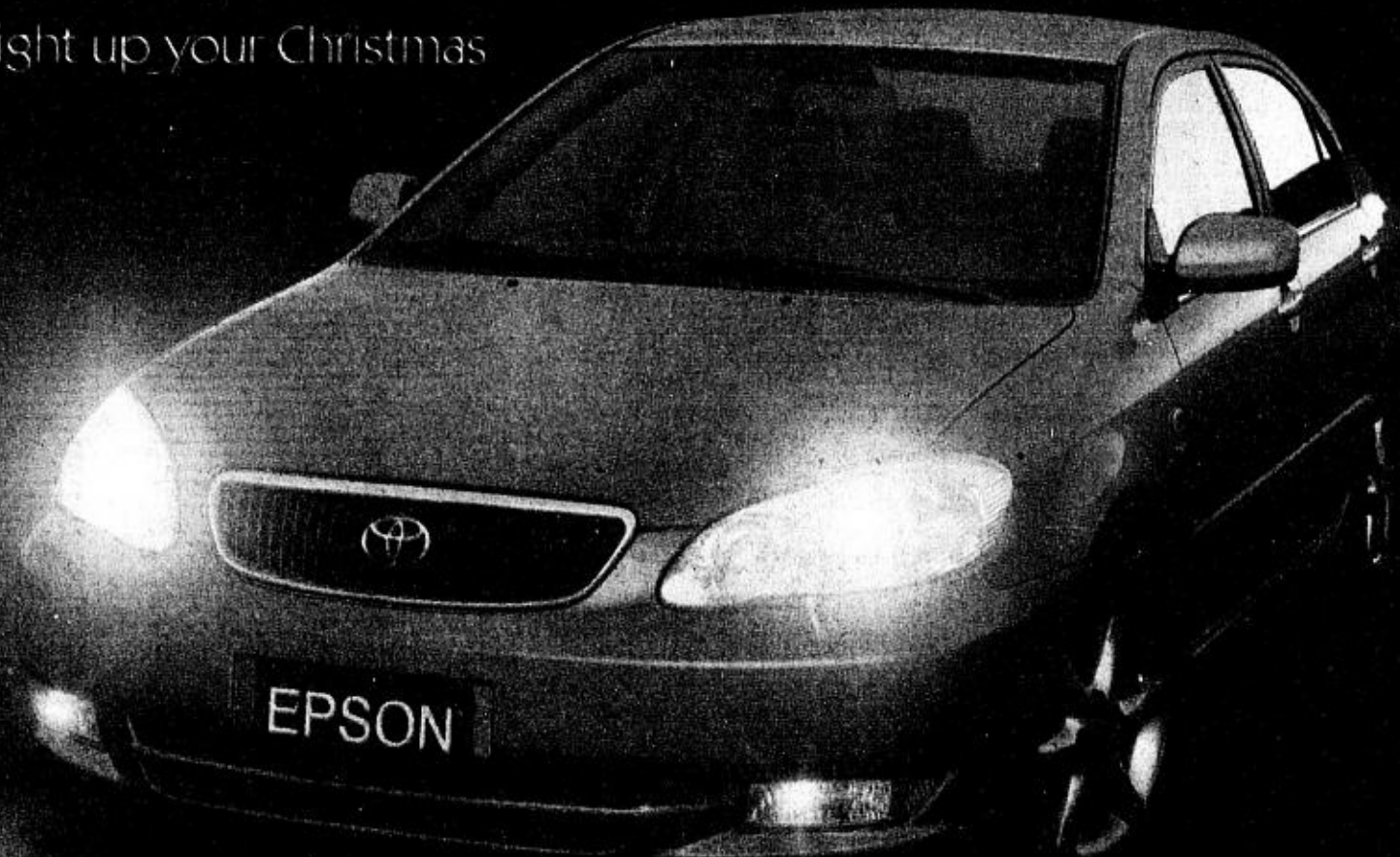
The song really spoke to my heart and I was asking myself how would that translate in my day-to-day life. I realized that the daily petty frustrations (traffic, rude waiters and sales people, backbiters, gossips, liars, etc.) suddenly seem insignificant in the light of Sept. 11. We need to step back and consider our priorities. Life is too short for rudeness, bitchiness and anger.

That means relearning the loss art of graciousness and civility. As children we are taught to say "I'm sorry" and "Excuse me," and to basically have good manners. Husbands and wives, best friends, colleagues must re-learn these things as well. We must become kinder. The same treatment we accord to those we love, we should do likewise to the delivery man, bank teller, household help, etc.

We need to find the gracious way of living. We need to be kinder and gentler. So when we come to the autumn of our life and ask, "Did we fill the world with love," somebody will say "Yes."

E-mail the author at asd_world@hotmail.com

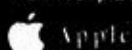
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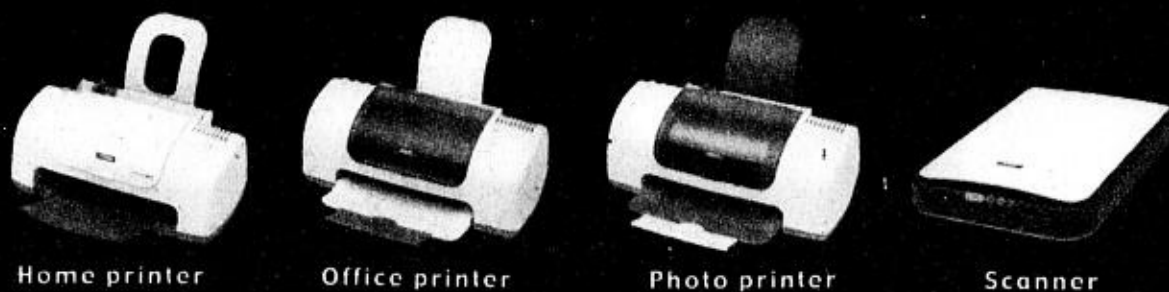
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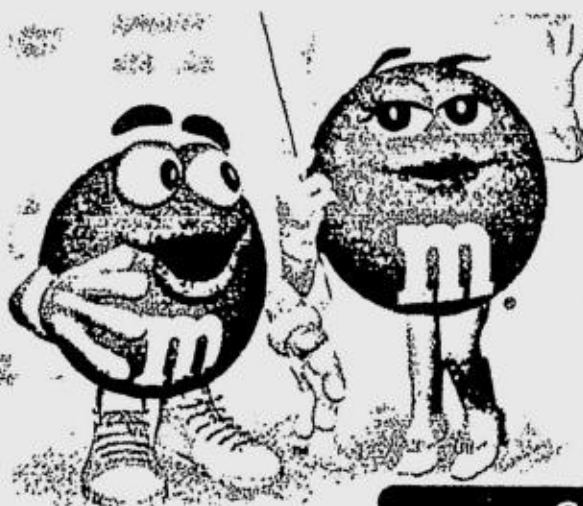
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NOTE: Please apply Monday to Friday 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM only.
 PREVIOUS APPLICANT NEED NOT APPLY.



GOT WHAT IT TAKES?

Master Foods Philippines, a MARS, Inc. Company is responsible for such snack food brands as M&M's®, SNICKERS®, MARS® and TWIX®. We are also behind the renowned pet food brands PEDIGREE® and WHISKAS®. And we are in search of the most skilled, energetic men and women to join our Service & Finance Team.

Cost Accountant

The cost accountant will be responsible for the development of our cost accounting and production planning functions. This is a very challenging role, requiring the ability to effectively balance the demands of finance and production. The jobholder will be tasked with costing out new products, analyzing variances, reviewing production schedules, controlling capital projects and inventory, safeguarding fixed assets, preparing input for our period and quarterly Management Accounts and communicating to senior management.

Candidates must have an excellent academic record, CPA qualified, and have a minimum of 5 years Cost Accounting experience. The individual must be able to organize and prioritize efficiently and effectively, and work independently as well as part of a team. First-rate analytical and planning skills are a must. Successful candidates will be based in our Plant at Clark Field Pampanga. We prefer residents of Pampanga.

Credit & Collection Associate

Successful candidate will play an integral part of the Service & Finance Team by ensuring that receivables of assigned customer accounts are current and reconciled. Candidate will be responsible for providing AR aging report and analysis, timely cash applications as well as coordinating with sales associates and out-sourced collection agency on matters affecting account receivables.

Candidate must have an excellent academic record, preferably CPA qualified with minimum of 1-2 years work experience in a consumer company, computer literate, aggressive and have excellent organizational and interpersonal skills. Experience in AR analysis and credit & collection will be a distinct advantage.



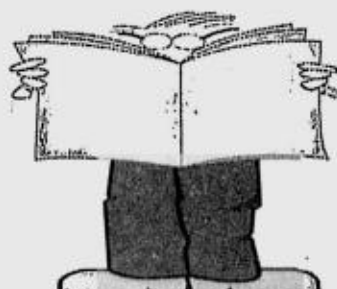
Send your resume to:
 The Personnel & Organization Division
 Master Foods Philippines, Inc.
 Ayala Life-FGU Center
 19/F #6811 Ayala Avenue, Makati City
 or e-mail: mfpl.jobs@ap.affem.com

For Pampanga applicants, you may send your resume to:
 Unit 2 & 3 Bertha Phil Compound, Jose Abad Santos Ave.
 Clark Field, Pampanga

The application period ends on December 7, 2001.
 We will only respond to qualified applicants.
 Previous applicants need not apply.



Mars



Where you find the best.

Read it every Sunday with the
 Philippine Daily Inquirer.





General Motors Automobiles Philippines

The GM Difference!

WE ARE SHIFTING TO HIGH GEAR FOR THE COMING YEAR

Be part of the world's biggest automobile company

We are in need of topnotch personnel to fill below-mentioned position immediately!

TREASURY ANALYST

Code: TA

Knowledge and Experience:

- ⇒ Must be a graduate of business course major in Accounting (preferably CPA)
- ⇒ Must have work experience in the same or similar position gained from a reputable company
- ⇒ Experience in bank trade transactions will be an advantage
- ⇒ Proven track record in credit & collection management
- ⇒ Exposure in import operations and development of business case
- ⇒ Excellent analytical skills
- ⇒ Strong computer skills

Competencies:

- ⇒ Hardworking, flexible and resourceful
- ⇒ Independent and efficient
- ⇒ Keen on details
- ⇒ Self-motivated with a strong commitment and drive to deliver
- ⇒ Ability and willingness to work beyond office hours

Please send your application documents with contact numbers and recent 2x2 photo. Previous applicants need not apply.

The Finance Director
General Motors Automobile Philippines, Inc.
33rd Flr., Citibank Tower Condominium
8741 Paseo de Roxas, Salcedo Village
1226 Makati City, Philippines



Asia United Bank

We are looking for highly motivated, competent and dynamic persons to join our team as:

BRANCH MANAGERS

- Will be primarily responsible for business development of our upcoming branches nationwide.
- At least three (3) years of sales experience in a commercial or universal bank.
- With very good communication skills and high customer-skills orientation

SALES OFFICERS

- At least three (3) years experience in sales
- Maintains wide network of business and personal contacts
- Confident in selling deposit/loan products of the bank
- Good communication skills, both oral and written (proficiency in the Chinese language is an advantage)

Qualified candidates may personally apply from Monday to Friday, 8:30 am - 5:30 pm or mail/e-mail comprehensive resumé and 2x2 photo to:

Asia United Bank
Human Resources Management Division
22/F Rm. 2209 Antel Global Center
Doña Julia Vargas corner Meralco Avenue
Ortigas Center, Pasig City

asiaunited@mindgate.com.ph

Application and/or resumé sent via e-mail are preferred to be in text (.txt) format to avoid software incompatibility.

MAJOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

PROJECT MANAGER

LAMAR MANAGEMENT SERVICES has an immediate vacancy for an energetic, experienced Manager for a Program Support Unit (PSU) which provides administrative, logistic and program support to a major international development agency. This one-year assignment will be based in Makati.

Candidates must have a university degree and substantial experience in managing human and financial resources, ideally related to the delivery of international development programs. They must also demonstrate excellent communication skill (oral and written) and initiative.

Interested applicants are requested to submit their CV in MS Word format, to the following e-mail address. Applications will be received until November 30, 2001.

lamar@lamarph.com

With the subject line 'Project Manager'



Jardine Davies

A REAL CAREER OPPORTUNITY

Jardine Davies has an enviable reputation for supplying and installing a range of quality products for a large number of high profile clients throughout the Philippines.

On the back of our well earned reputation, we are experiencing growth in business and now wish to strengthen our team through the appointment of a

SENIOR SALES MANAGER

(AVP DESIGNATE)

Industrial Products

The successful applicant will report to the General Manager and will have 'bottom line' responsibility for managing and growing a major group of our Industrial Products business, which include Refractories, Waterproofing and Industrial Floorings.

The appointee will be responsible for a full team of sales engineers and experienced technical specialists as well as proven installation teams. He or she will of course work very closely with our overseas Principals and will have full product development responsibilities.

Applicants must have at least ten years experience in industrial product sales management preferably in large project type sales. Applicants must have experience of negotiating at very senior levels and have a sound grasp of consultative and value-added selling techniques. Previous experience with a multinational company is desirable.

An Engineering degree, proven business acumen, excellent communication and interpersonal skills and computer literacy are all basic requirements.

This is a senior career position with excellent opportunities for progression within the Jardine Group. Jardines is committed to management development and structured training (both local and overseas). Salary and benefits packages are very competitive.

Please send your resume by post, fax or e-mail to:

Ms. Nanette Poblador
Jardine Davies
222 Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue
Makati City
Fax No. 844-7022
E-mail: HRD@jdigroup.com

Only applicants selected for interview will be contacted.

Jardine Davies is a member of the Jardine Matheson Group.



TOYOTA

DO YOU WANT TO BE PART OF A DEALER OF CHOICE?...
then here's the one you're waiting for!

We are in search of Top Caliber Teammembers to fill in our Job Vacancies

I. In House Instructor (TSI)

- male, not more than 30 years old, at least 5'7" in height
- preferably a degree holder of BS in Mechanical Engineering
- must have at least 2 years experience as a trainer
- with driver's license (professional)
- with supervisory work experience
- with 2 years experience in automotive workshop operations
- with excellent oral and written communication skills
- computer literate

II. Reception Head Trainee (TSI)

- male, not more than 30 years old, at least 5'8" in height
- preferably a degree holder of BS in Mechanical Engineering
- preferably with 2 years automotive experience in a frontline position
- with experience in auto repairs and maintenance
- with professional driver's license
- with excellent oral and written communication skills
- computer literate

III. Building Electrician (TSI)

- male, not more than 30 years old
- graduate of Master Electrician
- with 3 years experience as building electrician
- knowledgeable with PABX system, electronics

IV. Personnel Assistant (TSO)

- female, Psychology graduate, not more than 27 years old
- computer literate
- with pleasing personality

V. Estimator (TSO)

- Mechanical Engineer graduate, not more than 27 years old
- Must have at least 1 year experience in vehicle collision repair estimate
- Preferably living within the vicinity of Mandaluyong and Pasig City

VI. EDP Assistant (TSO)

- male, not more than 27 years old
- Computer Science graduate
- must have at least 1 year experience in the same field
- knowledgeable in PC trouble shooting

VII. WAREHOUSEMAN (TSI)

- college level, male, not more than 28 years old
- knowledge on spare parts would be an advantage
- at least 5'7" in height with Prof. Driver's license
- with at least 2 years experience as stock/storage clerk

....So don't miss this kind of opportunity! Interested applicants may apply and bring their resumé, transcript of records and 2x2 photograph at:

TOYOTA SHAW, INC. (TSI)
HUMAN RESOURCE OFFICE
411 Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City
Items # I—III & VII

TOYOTA SHAW-ORTIGAS
HUMAN RESOURCE OFFICE
124 E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. Bo. Ugong, Pasig City
Items # IV—VI

NOTE: Please apply Monday to Friday 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM only.
PREVIOUS APPLICANT NEED NOT APPLY.

**MAKE A
CAREER
CHOICE
ONLINE.**

IMMEDIATE-HIRING APPLY NOW

We are foreign affiliates of Taiwan, Singapore and Paris. We are now open for business and we need personnel to be assigned in our mall exhibits and to occupy Managerial Positions in our Co. We need the ff. personnel:

- ❖ 30 - Account Executives
- ❖ 15 - Junior & Senior Managers
- ❖ 2 - Trainers with Sales Experience

Qualifications:
Graduate of any 2 or 4 years course, 20-35 years of age with good moral character, honest, hardworking with pleasing personality can start immediately. Unlimited Income, Starting from Php 8,500.00 and above.
Visit us for Interview on: November 26 (Monday), November 27 (Tuesday), November 28 (Wednesday) from 9:00 am - 5:00 pm. Apply personally in Proper Business Attire; bring your Resumé with your recent picture at the

ALSO WELCOME ARE:
Business minded People, Retirees, Unemployed, Ex-overseas Workers etc. **FOR DEALERSHIP PACKAGE PROGRAM**

ROBINSON'S PLACE
Imus, Aguinaldo, Hi-way
1st Level ground floor
in front of Goldlocks

**Your career might
only be a click of the
mouse away.**



**PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
JOBMarket
ONLINE**

and visit it online at www.jobmarketonline.com

Multinational Corporation supplying the Construction Industry with Architectural commodity products invites applicants for the position of

WAREHOUSE MANAGER

- Responsible for receiving all inward bound international shipments and scheduling of local deliveries
- Accountable for inventory accuracy
- Experienced with procedures of Occupational Health & Safety policies and their implementation
- Ability to manage and motivate staff
- Ability to develop a framework of systems and procedures to document and control the storage of all stock including FIFO and OTIF principles
- Capable of operating a forklift
- Male with at least 10 years experience in warehouse management and handling of commodity items.

Applicants should, in the 1st instance, provide a copy of their resume including 1X1 current photograph, accompanied with a letter of application providing contact details and personally apply or send applications at:

BORAL PLASTERBOARD PHILIPPINES
Keynet Compound, Mercury Ave., cor.
E. Rodriguez Jr. Avenue, Libis,
Quezon City 1110

ARCHON MANPOWER RESOURCES CORP.

is inviting applicants for the position of

ACCOUNTING MANAGER

Basic Function:

Will develop an accounting system for a Japanese company. Shall deal with the day-to-day transactions with Management and Supervisors. Will perform cost analysis.

Basic Requirements:

- ☒ At least 35 years old
- ☒ Must be a CPA
- ☒ With 10 years experience as Accountant
- ☒ Preferably worked for a construction or architectural company
- ☒ Computer literate
- ☒ Fluent in English

Send resumé with 2x2 photo at linchrd@info.com.ph

insync

INSTITUTIONAL SYNERGY, INC.

EXECUTIVE SEARCH SERVICES

Our client, a progressive multinational consumer goods manufacturing company based in **Laguna**, is in need of a well qualified

ACCOUNTING AND FINANCIAL REPORTING MANAGER

THE JOB: The hired candidate will be directly responsible for: the preparation of the Philippine Plant's financial and operational results as well as statutory reports, the analysis of financial accounts, cash management and banking relations, accounts payable and payroll, among others.

THE REQUIREMENTS: The candidate must be a CPA, with very good scholastic records. He or she must have at least 5 years' supervisory experience, ideally gained from a multinational company, and solid experience in preparing financial and management reports. The ideal candidate is a quick learner, meticulous, hands-on and achievement-oriented. A high aptitude for working with accounting software is also necessary.

The company offers a competitive compensation and benefits package. Qualified applicants are invited to send their resumé with application letters, including contact numbers, current and expected pay, and a recent photograph (indicate code: AFR) to: **Institutional Synergy, Inc., Unit 608, 6/F Taipan Place, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City** or e-mail them to execsearch@insync.com.ph on or before **December 3, 2001**. (Note: we will reply only to those considered for interview.)

insync

INSTITUTIONAL SYNERGY, INC.

EXECUTIVE SEARCH SERVICES

Our client is a non-profit foundation that provides financial assistance and non-financial services to support ecologically-sound, economically-viable, and community-oriented enterprises. They are currently in need of a well-qualified

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

THE JOB: The hired candidate will manage the day to day operations of the foundation, ensuring that it contributes strategically to development finance in the Philippines. This will include monitoring and improving the performance of the foundation, the development of its annual operating and strategic plans as well as project evaluation and recommendation.

THE REQUIREMENTS: The candidate, likely be over 40 years old, is graduate of any business, economics, or social science course. He or she should have at least five years experience in a senior management position and seven years experience in working with NGO's, PO's or Cooperatives. The candidate must have strong financial orientation and business acumen, and have the personality to effectively relate with donors, policy-makers, civil society leaders, and beneficiaries.

The company offers a competitive compensation and benefits package. Qualified applicants may send their resumé, with contact numbers, current and expected pay, and a recent photograph through e-mail address: execsearch@insync.com.ph or **Institutional Synergy, Inc., Unit 608, 6/F Taipan Place, Emerald Avenue Ortigas Center, Pasig City**.

WANTED

AUTOMATION ENGINEER

- Not more than 35 years old
- Knowledge of PLC is a must
- Computer literate
- EE or ECE
- Experience with SCADA system is advantage

Qualified applicants are invited to send their resumé to:

Box Code ST-1125
c/o Classified Ads Division
Philippine Daily Inquirer
5th Flr., Bldg. B, EDSA
Mandaluyong City
Email: systemo@info.com.ph



MIDDLE EAST OPPORTUNITIES

GHD is an independent international consultancy providing leadership in management, engineering and environmental services with a commitment to international sustainable development. Our expanding operations in the Gulf States has provided opportunities in the following areas.

Senior Road/Urban Designers

Civil Engineering degree or equivalent with minimum 10 years experience in design of roads and urban infrastructure. Candidates should be experienced in all aspects of geometric layout and design of roads and services and must be competent in MX or LDD, including relevant certification with external training providers. AutoCAD experience is necessary. Reporting to the Design Managers, the role is critical to successful delivery of the work in-hand and future projects. Four permanent positions available starting immediately.

Send your curriculum vitae to the Manager via e-mail only at dohmail@ghd.com.au

www.ghd.com.au

SiberHegner

Market Intelligence for Technology

Founded in 1985, we are a well established international trading firm with headquarters in Zurich, Switzerland, and with 70 branches & Subsidiaries worldwide. Our main activities are trading & marketing Raw and Industrial Materials, Technology and Consumer Goods. We are in URGENT need of a:

- **Service Engineer**
- **Sales/Applications Engineer**

For the Laboratory Instruments Department (LAB)

Qualifications for Service Engineer:

- male, 21 to 30 years old
- ECE or EE graduate
- With or without working experience

Qualifications for Sales/Applications Engineer:

- Male or female, 21 to 30 years old
- With good background in Chemistry
- Pref. with work experience related to the pos. to be filled

Applicants must be:

- Computer literate
 - With good communications skills
 - Must have the ability to work independently and without supervision
- We offer excellent remuneration and benefits packaged for the selected applicant. Interested applicants may e-mail or fax their detailed resumé to our office.

SiberHegner (Philippines) Inc.
Unit 605, Summit One Office Tower
530 Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila
Phone +63-2-533 9890 to 92 / 716 16 24 / 718 1727
Fax +63-2-718 16 25
Manila@SiberHegner.com

JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR FACTORY PERSONNEL

ACCREDITED CERT. NO. 58248-3

A LEADING MANUFACTURING CONCERN IN DAMMAM, SAUDI ARABIA REQUIRES THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE:

SR. CHEMIST

B.Sc. in Chemistry or Chemical Engineer with advance studies in polymer chemistry and/or paint technology required. Five (5) years experience in manufacturing or paint resins, with extensive studies in R&D, product formulation and manufacturing specially in reactor manufacturing of latex, PVA, modified acrylics, adhesive and bonding agents. Must have ability to work independently and good communication skills.

CHEMIST

B.Sc. in Chemistry or Chemical Engineer. At least three (3) years experience in industrial coating paint formulation with a major paint/coating manufacturer in products development and manufacturing. Must have ability to work independently and good communication skills.

LABORATORY TECHNICIAN

Diploma from reliable technical institute, with at least 2 years experience.

SAFETY ENGR.

B.Sc. in Industrial Hygiene / Chemistry or Chemical Engineer plus courses, seminars and training in industrial safety procedures, firefighting procedures / techniques & environmental protection. Five (5) years at supervisory level with a manufacturing company preferably in petroleum or petro-chemicals related industry. Must be able to organize and manage safety, fire-fighting and environmental protection program.

Interested applicants are requested to report personally to:

MACCEL MANPOWER AGENCY

RM. 602 GLC BLDG., T.M. KALAW ST.,
CORNER A. MABINI ST., ERMITA, MANILA
Manila Philippines
Tel. No. 521-6654

FOR MANPOWER POOLING ONLY, NO FEES TO BE COLLECTED
THIS ADVERTISEMENT IS APPROVED BY POEA
"MAG-INGAT SA ILLEGAL RECRUITER"
MEMBER: PASEI

Job-opening for:

FIELD INTERVIEWERS

(per project basis)

Qualifications:

- Single, Male or Female, 20-27 years old
- College level or College graduate
- With excellent oral and written communication skills
- in both English and Tagalog
- Knowledge of other dialects is a plus
- With pleasing, outgoing personality
- Willing to work on-field
- No work experience required

Comprehensive training will be given

Apply in person with resumé and current photo:

Suite 603 Richmond Plaza
21 San Miguel Avenue corner
Lourdes Street, Ortigas Center
Pasig City

Look for **Khor**

The Aristocrat Restaurant

The country's Most Popular Restaurant

In its pursuit to continuously provide high quality food and excellent service accepts highly effective individuals with expertise in the following positions:

CHEF

Male, at least 28 years old, with at least two years experience in the position, specializes in international cuisine e.g. Italian, French, Chinese, Japanese.

PARTIES & CATERING OFFICER

Male/female, at least 25 years old, preferably HRM graduate, with at least two years experience and with existing client base/network, computer literate.

MARKETING OFFICER

Male/female, at least 25 years old, graduate of Marketing or related course, creative, with excellent communication and interpersonal skills, computer literate.

SERVICE SUPERVISOR

Male/female, at least 25 years old, preferably HRM graduate, with at least two years supervisory experience in food service, at least 5'4", with strong but pleasing personality and above-average communication skills both in Filipino and English.

INDUSTRIAL ENGINEER

Male/female, at least 28 years old, graduate of Industrial Engineering, with at least three years experience in a manufacturing facility.

FOOD TECHNOLOGIST

Male/female, at least 28 years old, preferably Food Technology graduate, with at least three years experience in a manufacturing facility.

CHEMIST

Male/female, at least 28 years old, preferably BS Chemistry graduate, with at least three years experience in a manufacturing facility.

TAKE OUT/DELIVERY COUNTER LEADER

Male/female, at least 21 years old, college level, preferably with experience in food service, at least 5'4", with strong but pleasing personality, with good communication skills both in Filipino and English and knowledgeable in leaflet design.

NURSE

Preferably male, at least 25 years old, BSN graduate registered with PRC, with at least two years experience, with pleasing personality, patient and hardworking.

Interested applicants may send their resumé with Transcript of Records and 2x2 picture to Personnel Administration Department, Roxas Food Ventures, Inc., 432 San Andres, Malate, Manila.

URGENTLY NEEDED

SECRETARY

We require someone who has efficient skills in handling secretarial and administrative-relative tasks.

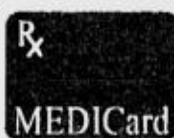
We are open to:

- Female, single not more than 27 years of age
- College graduate, with knowledge of accounting
- Computer literate (Windows, Excel, Lotus)
- With at least 3-5 years work experience
- Can take dictation and compose business letters
- Self-motivated and quality results-oriented
- Good verbal and written communication skills
- Good interpersonal relation skills

Qualified candidates may apply in person or mail their application letters, with comprehensive bio-data, copy of transcript of records, and recent 2" x 2" picture to:

MENZI & CO., INC.
20/F Security Bank Centre
6776 Ayala Avenue
Makati City, Metro Manila

TECHNICAL/PROFESSIONAL/GENERAL



MEDICard PHILS INC.

One of the country's leading HMO is looking for assertive, dynamic and energetic individuals to fill up the following vacancies:

• **PHILHEALTH OFFICER**

- Graduate of B.S. Accountancy;
- Between 25 to 35 years of age;
- Must have at least 1 year related work experience gained in HMO or insurance setting;
- Computer literate with good interpersonal skills.

• **VISUAL BASIC PROGRAMMER**

- Graduate of four (4) years Computer related course;
- With 2 years programming experience;
- Working knowledge in MS SQL Server is an advantage.

• **MARKETING ASSISTANT/LIAISON OFFICER**

- Graduate of any Medical course or BS Marketing;
- Must be able to relate well with all levels of the organization;
- Must be computer literate and can work with minimum supervision.

Qualified and interested applicants are requested to apply personally. Bring resumé, transcript of records and 2x2 photo at: Medicard Phils., Inc.: Human Resources Department - 5/F Sagittarius Bldg., H.V. Dela Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City. Email us at rsalmon@medicardphils.com

(Previous applicants need not apply)

Systems Analyst

Keppel Batangas Shipyard, engaged in shiprepair and shipbuilding has an urgent need for a **Systems Analyst** for its shipyard establishment located in Bauan, Batangas.

Basic Function:

The position is responsible for planning, organizing, executing, implementing and controlling activities such as systems analysis, hardware acquisition and maintenance and systems design and administration.

Qualifications:

- Degree in Computer Science or related discipline;
- Must be familiar with and experienced in a computerized accounting environment and local area network;
- Must have at least three (3) years hands-on experience in systems and software development.

Competitive compensation and benefits await qualified applicants. The successful applicant will be based at the company's shipyard in Bauan, Batangas.

Qualified applicants are requested to submit a comprehensive resumé and a 2x2 photo to the following address by **December 7, 2001**.

KEPPEL BATANGAS SHIPYARD
Unit 3B, Country Space I Bldg.,
Sen. Gil J. Puyat Ave., Makati City
Attn: VP-Administration

Only shortlisted applicants will be called for interview.

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

ELECTRICAL ENGINEER

- Degree in Electrical Engineering, preferably licensed
- With at least 2 to 3 years experience in Building Management System
- Must have knowledge in computer programming and basic electronic components
- Must have established a good network of contacts and have strong relationship with major contractors and consultants
- Good communication skills, oral and written

SALES SECRETARY

- Female, 24 to 28 years old
- Graduate of any 4-year course
- With at least 3 to 5 years experience as a Secretary preferably in Sales and Marketing
- Above average in oral and written communication and computer skills
- Proficient in business correspondence, travel arrangement and documentation
- Honest, hardworking and with pleasing personality

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

- Female, 21 to 28 years old
- BSBA or BSC graduate
- With at least 1 year experience in administrative work including purchasing and personnel administration
- Must be computer literate
- Personable, resourceful and innovative

Please send resumé with 2x2 picture to the attention of the HRD, MCPO 1443 Makati Central Post Office.

We are a global provider of expert outsourced customer support and e-business services, with offices throughout the United States and Southeast Asia.

We need competent individuals for the position:

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATE

Candidates must have a basic understanding of computers and the Internet. They must speak English fluently; American accent is preferred. Sales experience is helpful but not required. Knowledge of cars or the automotive industry is a plus.

We will only entertain candidates from reputable schools.

Please send resumé to:

P.O. Box No. 72,
Greenhills Post Office,
1502 Metro Manila

Or call: 637-8520 local 213 during office hours on weekdays.

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING
SALES ENGINEERS

For Industrial Safety Products and Allied Items

Qualifications:

- ☒ Male, not more than 30 years old
- ☒ Preferably graduate of a 5-year Mechanical and Civil Engineering course or Marketing
- ☒ At least 1 year sales/working experience
- ☒ Team player, goal-oriented, hardworking, trainable, flexible, and with a positive attitude toward work, can be developed to supervisory position in a short period of time
- ☒ Fluent in English and Tagalog
- ☒ Willing to travel and be assigned to a specified area
- ☒ Having a car is an advantage

Interested applicants are requested to send their application letter (addressed to the Personnel Manager), and resumé with recent photo at:

Fax: (632) 724-8732

E-mail: hrd_safety@hotmail.com



COCOLIFE



A member of the UCPB Group of companies, one of the largest conglomerates in the country today. We comprise the Group's insurance arm and offer a complete range of insurance and protection services. Belonging to the top ten companies in the Insurance Industry, we boast of expanding network of Area Offices and over 80 fully computerized branches nationwide.

We are looking for dynamic, career-oriented, and quality driven individuals who want to join our team as:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| • MARKETING ASSISTANTS | • PROGRAMMERS |
| • CUSTOMER CARE ASSISTANTS | • ACTUARIAL ANALYSTS |
| • AUDITORS / AUDIT CLERKS | • CUSTOMER SERVICE STAFF |
| • EXECUTIVE SECRETARIES | • BRANCH PERSONNEL |
| | • ACCOUNTS ASSISTANTS |

General Qualifications:

- Graduate of a 4-year course with good scholastic standing;
- Male or Female with not more than 28 years of age;
- Customer Service - Oriented;
- Excellent communication skills;
- With pleasing personality;
- Computer literacy, a must.

We offer guaranteed 14 to 15 months compensation and competitive benefits package that includes rice subsidy, financial, housing and car loans at low interest rates, medical and HMO benefits, retirement benefit of as much as 2 months gross salaries for every year of service, and other special performance incentives.

Applicants must submit or mail their Comprehensive Resumé, Transcript of Records and most recent 2x2 picture on or before December 10, 2001 to:

Ms. Kit G. Bituin
3/F Cocolife Bldg., 6774 Ayala Avenue, Makati
Or email to:
kit_bituin@cocolife.com
joann_adolfo@cocolife.com

Qualified applicants will be informed thru mail or telephone for a scheduled interview. Previous applicants need not apply.

Preparing for the Interview

Being prepared will certainly minimize the fear and anxiety so Jaymie should make sure that she does the following:

Collect basic information.

Do a little research on the company she is visiting and find out what products or services they offer. Read up on relevant articles she sees in the papers. Ask friends and advisers what they know about the company. Recruiters are always proud about their company so expressing a little knowledge about their company will help her make an impression.



www.jobmarketonline.com

OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS BUT ONCE.



Read it every Sunday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer.



WANTED IMMEDIATELY

to grow with the company

SECRETARY
MARKETING CLERK
EDP CLERK
TELEPHONE OPERATOR

- Male or Female, not more than 26 yrs. old.
- A graduate of any course preferably a 4 year course
- Smart, aggressive, articulate, w/ very strong personality, strict and independent-minded.
- Can handle pressures and willing to train.
- With experience in related job.
- Computer literate, for Computer Programmer (Knowledgeable in troubleshooting, Visual Foxpro, Clipper, and other computer softwares.)
- Can start ASAP.

Interested applicants may apply personally or send their Comprehensive Resumé, Transcript of Records & 2x2 ID Picture and look for Ms. Lovelle Velasco on November 26, 2001 at:

HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT
SOLANDA ENTERPRISES, INC.
Anda cor. Magallanes Sts., Intramuros, Mla.
(near Manila Cathedral)

TAKANICHI PHILIPPINES CORPORATION
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INQUIRER

MAGAZINE

November 25, 2001

Volume 14 No. 38



German Moreno
Clown Prince

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As a breast cancer survivor, I now measure my life not in terms of hours or days or months or years, but by the little acts of daring to be human, of making amends, of paying it forward and hurting a little

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PERSEVERANCE

Congratulations to Annie Rago for a very well written article on Lolita Lucando Haiduk (SIM, 28 October 2001). It was a very inspiring and humanizing story that you featured in the Sunday Inquirer Magazine.

During difficult times like these, we need stories such as Lolita's to help put everything in perspective. After all, we have individual struggles in life, and we all go through ups and downs. Please congratulate Lolita for me on her accomplishments and most important of all, her bravery. I admire her for so many things.

RAMON IGNACIO
jbrfi@edsamail.com.ph

MUTUAL RESPECT

I had first known Jonathan Best from this magazine more than a year ago, which featured his 25 years with John Silva, spending a blissful life as gay couple. And again, this time (SIM, 12 August 2001), let me express my deep admiration for Jonathan for respecting his sister's decision to be with the man of her dreams. This is the exact epitome of how homosexuals never question the existence of heterosexuals. Why can't heterosexual people then extend the mutual understanding homosexuals deserve?

Like John and Jonathan, I have known a lot of homosexuals who succeeded in building a family of their own against all forms of discrimination that heterosexuals extend. People become true persons not through their sexual orientation, but through their respect for the rights of others.

CYNTHIA D. TABERNILLA
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PALANCA GLORY

Please accept our deepest gratitude for your excellent coverage of our 51st Palanca Literary Awards (SIM, 16 September 2001). Your third year of de-

voting an issue of your widely read and prestigious magazine has gone a long way in the continuing awareness and appreciation for the awards among your thousands of readers. We are confident this has advanced our common pursuit to help develop Philippine Literature in our country. Please convey our thanks to the wonderful staff for the fine write-ups.

SYLVIA PALANCA-QUIRINO
Director-General
Carlos Palanca Memorial
Awards for Literature

AKIKO'S SMILE

Thank you so much for featuring Akiko Thomson (SIM, 4 November 2001). I read the story about Akiko, and I really admire her determination and enthusiasm in pursuing her dreams, as well as her faith in the Big One up there. Beyond her simple smile, there is no arrogance, but a fearlessness to live life to the fullest and to be that someone she wants to be.

VIA EMAIL
gilliane17@yahoo.com



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The Cover Image Local showbiz icon German Moreno embodies the irresistible contradiction that is Pinoy kitsch. Photograph by Mike Alquinto

ATTENTION CONTRIBUTORS!

SIM strives to pay our valued contributors within three weeks of publication of an article or poem. However, to facilitate preparation of your fees – and to avoid an unnecessary trip! – please give the Cashier a call at tel. no. 897-8808 local 533 to confirm if your check is ready before visiting. Many thanks and keep them coming!

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Bad As Baduy Can Be

TELL MYSTICA SHE'S BADUY (LOWBROW) AND SHE'D BE SO ELATED SHE'D PROBABLY EXECUTE A SPLIT OR TWO, THE VERY REASON WHY SOME FOLK DISMISS HER AS A CARNIVAL ACT.

It's a description she relishes, she says. "*Inuunahan ko na sila* (I beat them to the punch)," she says proudly, recalling how once, when invited to a senator's party, she marveled at the ritzy grounds and exclaimed, "*Wow! Akala ko, pang-peryahan lang ako!* (And I thought I'm only good for the circus.)"

All cleavage, lace stockings, tassels and boots, Mystica gives the dominatrix image a new spin. The woman not only dominates the scene, she emasculates it. With her suggestive glances and tongue thrusts, lap dancing, acrobatics and splits, the singer of the naughty hit "*Simple Lang*" can heat up a noontime show and give it what some scandalized viewers describe as a beerhouse ambience. "Bawdy" is how other detractors diss her, while the *manangs*, Mystica herself admits, call her immoral.

Who can blame them? Discretion is not the strongest suit of this Whitney Houston wannabe who ended up as the female version of April Boy Regino. Except for her age which Mystica adamantly refuses to divulge ("19, as in nineteen-dihan na nila iyan"), nothing seems sacrosanct.

"Twice na akong nadapa," she says candidly of her two failed marriages, both to foreigners. The candor has gotten Mystica into controversies, the latest over her alleged dalliance with three call boys who subsequently told her the names of two local actors using their services. The actors' names landed in show biz columns and tabloids, with Mystica quoted as the source.

It's not as bad as it sounds, says this Rock Records artist. "The truth is, I went to a club, saw these guys and asked how much they were making for every date," claims Mystica. "P500 lang daw, and I thought,

I have P1,500 to spare, so why not spread the goods all around? So I took out three guys and we went to a disco. *Eh* kiss and tell *pala*, so they told me who else would take them out regularly. *Ako naman*, I told a reporter *pero* off the record. My mistake was, it was on tape, and when another reporter heard it, *ayun, pinagkalat na.*"

It is such propensity for trouble, not to mention the salacious and sensational, that makes her very acceptable to the *masa*, says Mystica. "*Kaya nila akong abutin* (I'm very accessible to them)." Like a true trooper, adds this Cagayan native, she allows herself "to flow with the show." She's a real crowd pleaser, she says. "*Nakiki-ride on ako. Kung gusto nila, pinapahaplos ko pa ang breasts ko.*" Filipinos, she notes, appreciate a shade of sexuality in their entertainment. "Through me, *lumalabas yung repressed sexuality nila*. Sometimes, it is the women themselves who urge me to take their husband to the stage and flirt with him."

Despite impressions to the contrary, Mystica rates her appeal as "*Hindi lang pang-men, pang general patronage pa,*" she deadpans. "*Kenkay kasi ako* (I'm funny) so my appeal extends to the young and old. And I have these too," she adds, tweaking her modified pigtails, "for the kids to identify with."

LIFE for Ruby Rose Villanueva of Carig, Tuguegarao City, Cagayan was ordinary enough until her father entered politics.

To page 6



Essay

by Sarge Lacuesta

Popstream

PERHAPS MY FIRST FORMED SENTENCE, MY FIRST WHOLE MEMORY: "EWAN KO BA KUNG BAKIT TYPE KITA. HINDI KA NAMAN GWAPO." IT WAS A WOMAN'S VOICE FROM A TRANSISTOR RADIO ON A DAME, IDLE AFTERNOON. MY MOTHER WAS WASHING CLOTHES AND I WAS WAITING FOR THE MATINEE SHOWS ON TV. IT WAS ALSO MY FIRST WISHFUL THOUGHT. I WANTED THE WOMEN IN MY LIFE TO IGNORE MY FACE AND MY FRAME, AND LIKE ME FOR MY MIND.

Years later, I stirred and swooned as Dina Bonnevie soared through her false notes into the desperate chorus of "Bakit Ba Ganyan." I would add my voice to Dina's, in a duet that never hit the charts but gained heavy airplay. Even before the song faded out I would scan the airwaves and catch it again in 15 seconds flat: the song was that popular.

Pop was the great equalizer, the cheese by which all Pinoys lived. Another place, another time, our car radio was stuck on one frequency. They called it "Super Tunog Pinoy" and featured Pinoy songs round-the-clock. From the Juan dela Cruz band to Tito Mina, Hotdog to Apo Hiking Society, they had everything.

That, of course, changed with the American Top 40, a weekly radio show featuring Casey Kasem and a host of "live" callers making "long-distance dedications" from places like Alabama, Wisconsin and Minnesota. After we had correctly identified Casey as the voice of Shaggy on "Scooby-Doo," the mystique sort of died. Of course, the cartoons we were all watching back then weren't American; they were all Japanese, and carried with them 10-story heroes fashioned after the cold coded Samurai, horned beast fighters, and finally, as the series continued, poignant stories of love and loss. Our hearts warmly registered the drama between Richard and Erica, Little John and Octo-1, Mazinger Z and Aphrodite A—all as prototype face-offs that would return illustrated in flesh and bone, as important moments in our lives. Indeed, Steve Armstrong's secret, inescapable Bozarian past became our unsolved mystery: we were nurtured by our popular culture, and hopelessly captured by it.

But soon enough, our household would be stuck on one show, one channel, one ineffable time slot: "Anna Liza," which featured Julie Vega as the title character, the *uber-api* that embodied the struggling, servile Pinoy. Leni Santos was the *contrabida* everyone wanted to bitch-slap (or say to her face, years later, "you're nothing but a second rate, trying hard..."). Besides that, Anna Liza also featured a soundtrack that contained all her monotonous desperation, a piano-led performance that stuck in your head for years.



What made these cheap and popular memories disgusting, yet so delicious that we would take pop phenomena as prescribed pattern, to be rethought, rehashed and reissued to the modern majority?

Also memorable was the soundtrack of "Duplex" (featuring Ading Fernando, Marissa Delgado, Janice Jurado, Al Tantay, Soxy Topacio and Anna Lorraine Kier), that fuzzy piece of electronic inanity, which, in those pre-piracy days, was readily ripped off from an old Devo song. Compare that to the Albinioni organ concerto used for Ishmael Bernal's miniseries "Maynila" (starring stunning Jacklyn Jose), the Michael Jackson rip-off from the end credits in "John en Marsha" and the mildly irritating theme song from "Chicks to Chicks" (starring Freddie Webb, Nova Villa, Carmi Martin and Maria Teresa Carlson), the complete lyrics for which can be found in the show's title.

But to me the best soundtrack came from the TV show that featured overstaying students The Escalera Brothers, played by Tito, Vic and Joey. The show was "Iskul Bukol," and their antics at Wanbol High were sure to keep us watching. However, "...ang 'di lang sure...(kwek)...ang pagpasa. Ahaha...ahuuuu...yeah... Iskul Bukol!" Following closely was "Television's Outrageously Delightful All-Star Show," or "T.O.D.A.S.," for short. It featured more of the slapstick and less of the plot, but wasn't our life sometimes but a string of disjointed comic episodes? "Champoy," on the other hand, featured a cleaner style and a more upscale brand of humor, featuring super Subas Herrero and Noel Trinidad in his permanent comic frown.

But the best team-ups were perhaps seen on noontime variety shows like "Student Canteen," "Lunch Date," "Kalatog Pinggan," "The Big Big Show" and the mighty "Eat Bulaga," where audience ratings determined who stayed on and who went off the air. In shows like "Spin-a-Win" and "Kwarta o Kahon," it was Jeanne Young and Pepe Pimentel who stayed on and the contestants who suffered the drama—these were the low-stakes game shows that foreshadowed today's multi-million peso cliffhangers.

We cried them all and we laughed them all. A lot of it sucked, but what made it stick? What made these cheap and popular memories disgusting, yet so delicious that we would take pop phenomena as prescribed pattern, to be rethought, rehashed and reissued to the modern majority?

What soundtrack would compel the *api* of our generation to vote a film star into the presidency, and rush to the streets to protest his off-the-air static?

It is a force as powerful as typhoons, as proven by the emergency news flash spelling out Julie Vega's untimely death in creeping letters across the bottom of the TV screen, and promising a full report from Bingo Lacson in the next commercial gap. It is a force that makes us cheer with sheer victory over "Who Wants to Be A Millionaire," or arrange our schedules around "Pangako Sa 'Yo," or to weep with the contestant in "Laban o Bawi" who has just traded in a cool, mind-boggling million bucks for the quicker, surer cash piled fat on her trembling hand. It is a force that hurts us deeply when we learn about Nida Blanca, faithful Marsha to Dolphy's John, lying dead in her car with 13 stab wounds and an unsolved mystery. 

"A lot of it sucked but what made it stick": Noontime show "Eat Bulaga"

Sa Pamumulaklak ng mga Salita

Yinayapos natin ang inialay na lupalop,
 biyaya ng langit sa daigdig,
 binabakuran ng ating mga bisig.
 Sa ating dibdib madudukal ang kalinga
 ng alabwab, pinaghehele ang mga madiwarang binhi.
 Ipa at balakbak ang una nating balat;
 pangalawang balat naman
 ang kahariang pinaliligiran ng pilapil.
 Sa ating paanan, umaalon ang mga talulot ng bulaklak
 na hindi pa natin matiyak ang mga pangalan.
 Nanalig ang ating mga balahibong dahon at damo
 sa tubig, araw, lupa, apoy.
 Pumipintig ang ating puso ng pagsuyo;
 dumadaloy naman ang hiwaga
 sa sala-salabid na ugat ng ating kabuuan.
 At sa panahong ito ng pamumulaklak,
 taimtim tayong nagmamatyag.
 Haharapin nating mata sa mata
 ang sinumang diyablo, maligno, engkanto
 na magtatangkang bumulabog sa sumisibol
 na tamis, sanghaya, tingkad ng mga salita;
 at ipatatapon sa lupaing
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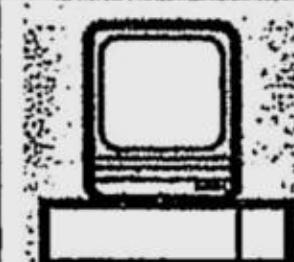
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"Politics messed up our lives," says this youngest of four siblings consisting of two boys and two girls. "We used to own a school, but that and our own home were mortgaged because my father incurred a lot of debts when he decided to run for public office." Servando Villanueva was a municipal councilor when he campaigned for then presidential candidate Corazon Aquino. "As ward leader for the opposition, he had wanted to run for mayor in the next elections," Mystica recalls, "but he was shot dead while campaigning on Dec. 30, 1985."

With the bank about to foreclose the family home, the prized declaimer and singer in the local school decided to set aside her dreams of being a lawyer. "I joined stage and radio shows in the provinces with the likes of comedians Don Pepot and Palito. Then I went to Manila and sang at Eduardo's, Wild Duck, those clubs along Roxas Blvd. in Pasay."

But no, she denies the rumor, she's never been a Japayuki. After a short stint in Palau when she was barely 16 (where she met and had a child with the son of stage comedian Rudy Manlapaz), she got offers to perform in Japan. "But I was afraid of the Yakuza so I did not take them," says Mystica. "*Sabiko, sa ibang bansa na lang.*"

It was while auditioning for Singapore that she met her first husband, Derek Cassidy, whom the self-described "go-getter, adventurous Sagittarian" pursued actively. They met on December 16. Two days

"Bawdy" is how some viewers describe Mystica, here with boyfriend Kevin Monteverde



later, on her birthday, she called him six times to ask for a loan for their mortgaged house. He proposed marriage instead. He was 56, she was in her teens but desperate, so they married on July 8, 1990. The marriage lasted a year; he was abusive and barred her from having her own career, says Mystica. "He wanted me to work in one of his five restaurants in Vancouver," she adds.

Seven years in Vancouver gave the new divorcee enough time to train as dancer, model and actress, after which she moved to Los Angeles and took up acting classes at the Beverly Studio. It was in LA where she produced and recorded her first two albums in 1999: "I'll Bring You Back to Life," which she dedicated to her father, and "Mystique Dancer" from whose title the former Ruby Cassidy got her latest stage name.

Comfortable now with a regular rental income from a house she bought in Beverly Hills, Mystica said she decided to try her luck at home. "I was watching 'Eat, Bulaga' once and saw Aegis on TV. I was inspired." She sought Aegis producer Nonoy Tan and was soon working with him under Rock Records to produce the albums "Mystica" and "Walang Takip." Her music, she describes, is "sort of slow rock *na* rhythm n' blues." Defying critics of Filipino remakes, Mystica also turned Bonnie Tyler's "Total Eclipse of the Heart" into "*Bakit Ka Hindi Naging Tapat.*"

Her image as "Split Queen" was totally unplanned, she says. "*Nakatuwaan ko lang* once when I was performing, and apparently people liked it, so they began demanding it every time I perform." That split and the corresponding revealing costumes that went with it plus the unsavory gossip that Mystica seems to attract proved too much for her family. "They left me here in Manila and went back home to Cagayan. And the neighbors, *inistorya ako* (subjected me to intrigues)."

It took an elder brother, a pastor of the Seventh Day Adventists, to set things right again. "I told them, if a pastor can accept me, *kayo pa kaya?*" recalls Mystica. So now when people ask about her rather unorthodox lifestyle, her family would readily defend her, she adds. "They'll say, 'Well, image *lang iyan*. In truth, she's a good daughter who would always put her family first.'"

Things did not turn out as well with her second marriage, though, she admits. She is in the process of divorcing her second husband, a lawyer, after five years of living-in, two years of marriage and no children. But no regrets, she adds. "I consider everything a learning experience, part of the journey to where I'm headed." She pauses. "Of course, there's one thing I would think twice about, given the chance: having had a child at an early age," she says of her 14-year-old son. "I'm a proud mother, but I always think, *ang dami kong ambisyon, sana nag-isip muna ako.*" She laughs. "*Makulay ang buhay ko*, like my favorite color red — as in Ruby Rosa. Red is for fire and passion."

As if to prove that, she reveals that yes, she's found a new boyfriend, Kevin Monteverde, a Filipino seaman based in Australia whom both her mother and her son approve of, she says, and whom her lawyer husband has vetted as well, she claims. "After all, we're divorcing."

And will the *masa* accept that? Well, she laughs, "They don't call me *Mystake-Ka* or *Mystika-tok* for nothing."

Gag Order

GARY LISING IS DANGEROUS TO YOUR HEALTH. IF YOU LISTEN TO HIM LONG ENOUGH, OR EVEN JUST ACCIDENTALLY HEAR HIM FOR A WHILE, YOU MIGHT PASS OUT FROM LAUGHING. SERIOUSLY. FOR OVER THREE DECADES, HE HAS BEEN MAKING PINOYS LAUGH IN HIS DISTINCTIVE FASHION: THROUGH GREEN JOKES AND JOKES ABOUT HIS LOOKS. "I DON'T KNOW WHY," HE MUTTERS, "BUT WHENEVER I GO OUT ON STAGE, EVERYBODY JUST STARTS LAUGHING WHEN THEY SEE ME." LIKE THAT REALLY POPULAR TEXT JOKE YOU KEEP GETTING, THERE'S NO ESCAPE FROM GARY AS HE WISECRACKS ON STAGE, ON SCREEN AND, MOST NOTABLY, IN PRINT.

Though he is known for his sidesplitting TV roles, Gary is also a phenomenal best-selling author. He has written 14 joke books in all. "And they're all best-sellers," he boasts. "They can be found in over half the comfort rooms in the Philippines. My books are perfect for reading on the throne."

Gary was always funny when he was growing up. "My classmates laughed at me whether or not I meant to be funny," he remembers. He claims he was a teacher's pet "because my teacher could not afford a dog." Gary was a voracious reader—and is quite the trivia buff. That got him started on writing his own jokes and gags.

Gary really got going during his eventful college days at the Ateneo, where he formed a tremendously funny *barkada* with Jun "Mr. Shoo-li" Urbano, Subas Herrero and Noel Trinidad. "The Ateneo was a hard school to get through," he notes, "but it was full of intelligent, crazy people." He got through, though, graduating in 1964 with a degree in BS Economics. By then, he was already writing professionally for Fr. James Reuter's TV show "Sta. Zita and Mary Rose."

Immediately after graduation, Gary took up a job selling encyclopedias for Grolier's. "They thought I was the greatest salesman," he cracks, "but I just took my yearbook and went door-to-door at all my classmates' addresses."

Frequent visits to the US ignited a yearning to try his luck abroad. Thus, Gary took his writing skills to a larger stage, beating out a whole slew of writers to be hired as gag writer for NBC—and wound up



writing for comedy greats like Johnny Carson, Freddie Prinze, Dean Martin and Sammy Davis Jr. He moved up to become head honcho of the writing department, but when NBC moved West to Los Angeles from New York, Gary stayed put. "It was a windfall for me and I couldn't handle the money," he explains, when talking about that difficult part of his life. But advice from Fr. Bert Ampil, S.J., helped him work out his problems in the States.

After 18 years in the US, Gary returned to the Philippines as a *balikbayan*—and unknowingly, into the next phase of his comedian's life. Imee Marcos hired him to write jokes for the morning kids' show "Kaluskos Musmos." He would find other gigs after that, reuniting with old buddies Noel and Subas on the seminal TV gag show "Champoy." He formed a band, the Music Making Company, and did many shows. Gary became a familiar (funny) face on various TV series and movies.

He also received a huge boost from his friends. So thankful is he that he wants to make sure those steadfast friends are mentioned: Jun Lopez, Butch Borromeo, Noey Lopez, Noel, Subas, and Fr. Vitaliano Gorospe, S.J. "They stood by me no matter what." A most crucial role in his life was played by Bert Lina, who gave Gary a job at courier company Federal Express. Gary is now Marketing Director for FedEx. Lina was also instrumental in helping Gary put up the shop that embodies his personality—Gary Lising's Joke Box at Robinson's Galleria.

Gary has settled down, as well, happily married for 12 years to wife Maris. Late to fatherhood, Gary simply adores his only son, 12-year-old Buggy. "He is the center of my world," he beams. "My son is so smart. Imagine, he's only 12—and he's already ashamed of me!"

He has put much of the difficult times behind him and evinces contentment with the way things are. "I'm very happy with everything that God has given me. I'm very content." So happy in fact, he can't seem to stop making jokes.

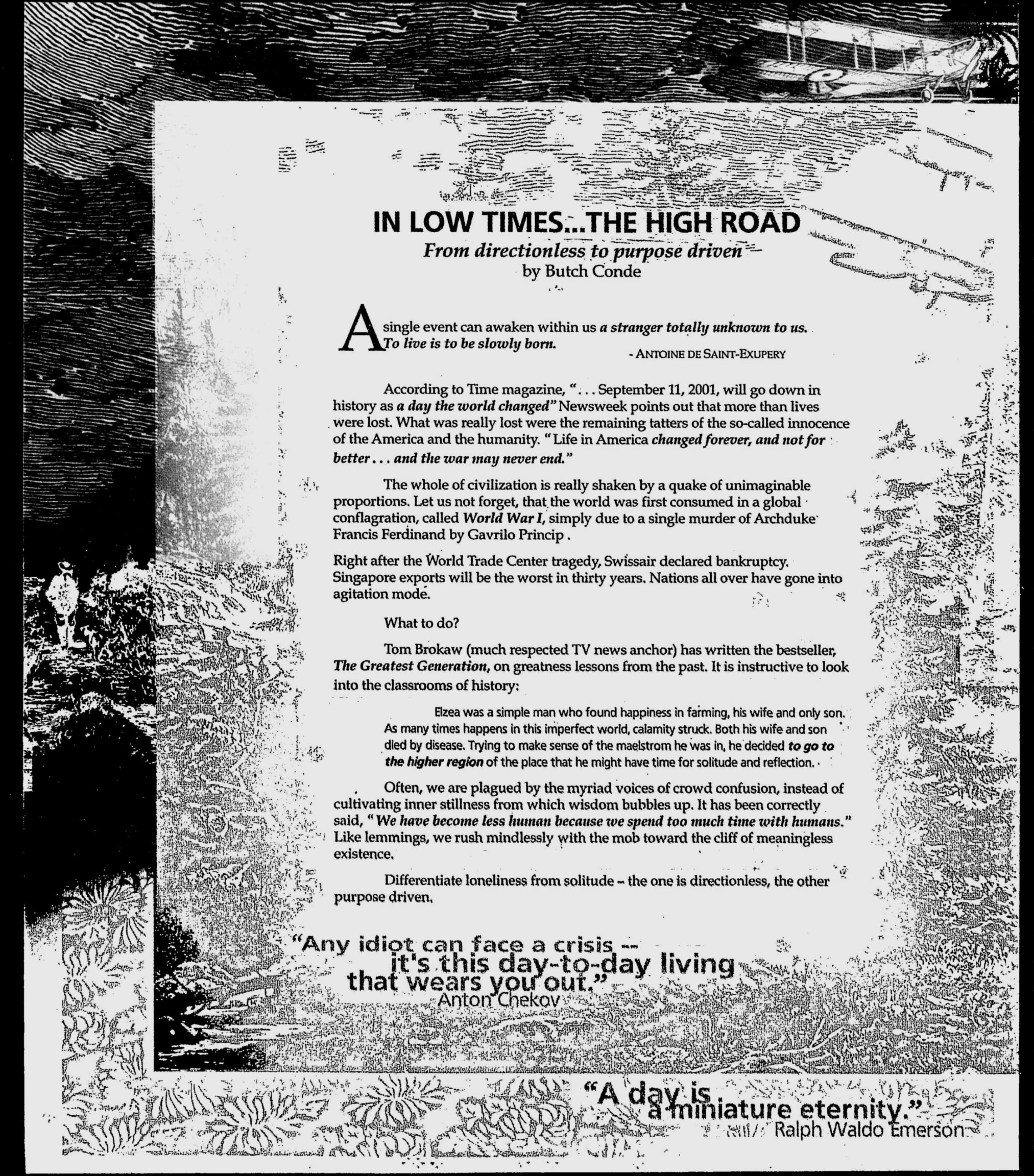
COMEDY is never easy, but for some people, (read: Gary) it comes naturally. "I just watch TV and people. I just observe. Filipinos are funny," he explains, "so the jokes just come out of my mouth."

But he has a serious side. Whenever he's on FedEx business or in the boardroom, he's always proper and business-like. "But sometimes, I can't help it, I just have to make a joke."

Making a joke is an art form that Gary practises constantly. Whenever a new joke idea occurs to him, he tries it out every chance he gets to make sure it's funny. Interestingly enough, Gary has always been known for his green jokes. When he began his comedic career, some of his toilet humor was considered too risqué for public consumption. But his green



Johnny Villena



IN LOW TIMES...THE HIGH ROAD

From directionless to purpose driven

by Butch Conde

A single event can awaken within us *a stranger totally unknown to us.*
To live is to be slowly born.

- ANTOINE DE SAINT-EXUPERY

According to Time magazine, "... September 11, 2001, will go down in history as *a day the world changed*" Newsweek points out that more than lives were lost. What was really lost were the remaining tatters of the so-called innocence of the America and the humanity. "Life in America *changed forever, and not for better... and the war may never end.*"

The whole of civilization is really shaken by a quake of unimaginable proportions. Let us not forget, that the world was first consumed in a global conflagration, called *World War I*, simply due to a single murder of Archduke Francis Ferdinand by Gavrilo Princip.

Right after the World Trade Center tragedy, Swissair declared bankruptcy. Singapore exports will be the worst in thirty years. Nations all over have gone into agitation mode.

What to do?

Tom Brokaw (much respected TV news anchor) has written the bestseller, *The Greatest Generation*, on greatness lessons from the past. It is instructive to look into the classrooms of history:

Elzea was a simple man who found happiness in farming, his wife and only son. As many times happens in this imperfect world, calamity struck. Both his wife and son died by disease. Trying to make sense of the maelstrom he was in, he decided *to go to the higher region* of the place that he might have time for solitude and reflection.

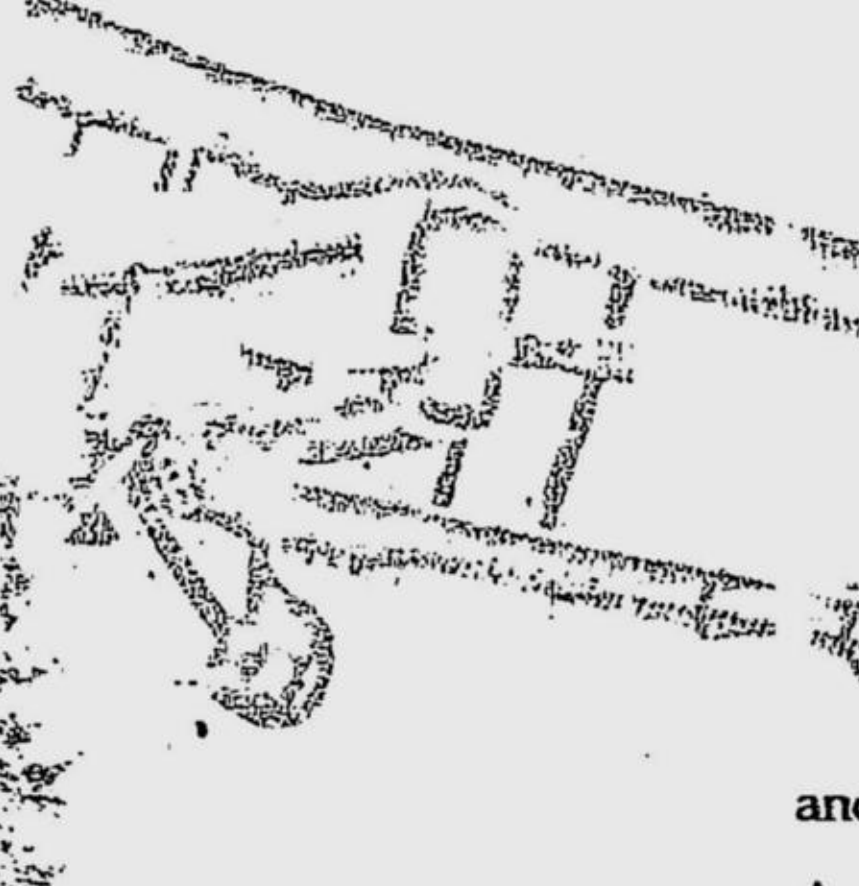
Often, we are plagued by the myriad voices of crowd confusion, instead of cultivating inner stillness from which wisdom bubbles up. It has been correctly said, "*We have become less human because we spend too much time with humans.*" Like lemmings, we rush mindlessly with the mob toward the cliff of meaningless existence.

Differentiate loneliness from solitude - the one is directionless, the other purpose driven.

"Any idiot can face a crisis --
it's this day-to-day living
that wears you out."

Anton Chekov

"A day is
a miniature eternity."
Ralph Waldo Emerson



Gathering together his dog and twenty sheep, he journeyed **for the high country**. He found a desolate wasteland, ravaged by unthinking, where once a verdant forest had been. Being a farmer, he was challenged as a painter by scenery, a lawyer by injustice, or a physician by sickness. He began to shift from his personal pain to the plight of a larger reality. He finally purposed to spend his life **making a difference** in the world. He was a farmer. He would *do his small part*, never mind a gargantuan, incomprehensible reality.

He began to **daily** gather the scattered acorns, while his sheep were grazing. He planted the best one hundred everyday. He continued for one whole year. Then, two. Then, three. He kept on **for the next thirty-seven years**.

Real wisdom has to do with the daily and the drudgery, not the grandiose and the grandstanding.

Anton Chekhov once observed, "Any idiot can face a crisis — it's **this day-to-day living** that wears you out."

Ralph Waldo Emerson adds, "**A day is a miniature eternity**"

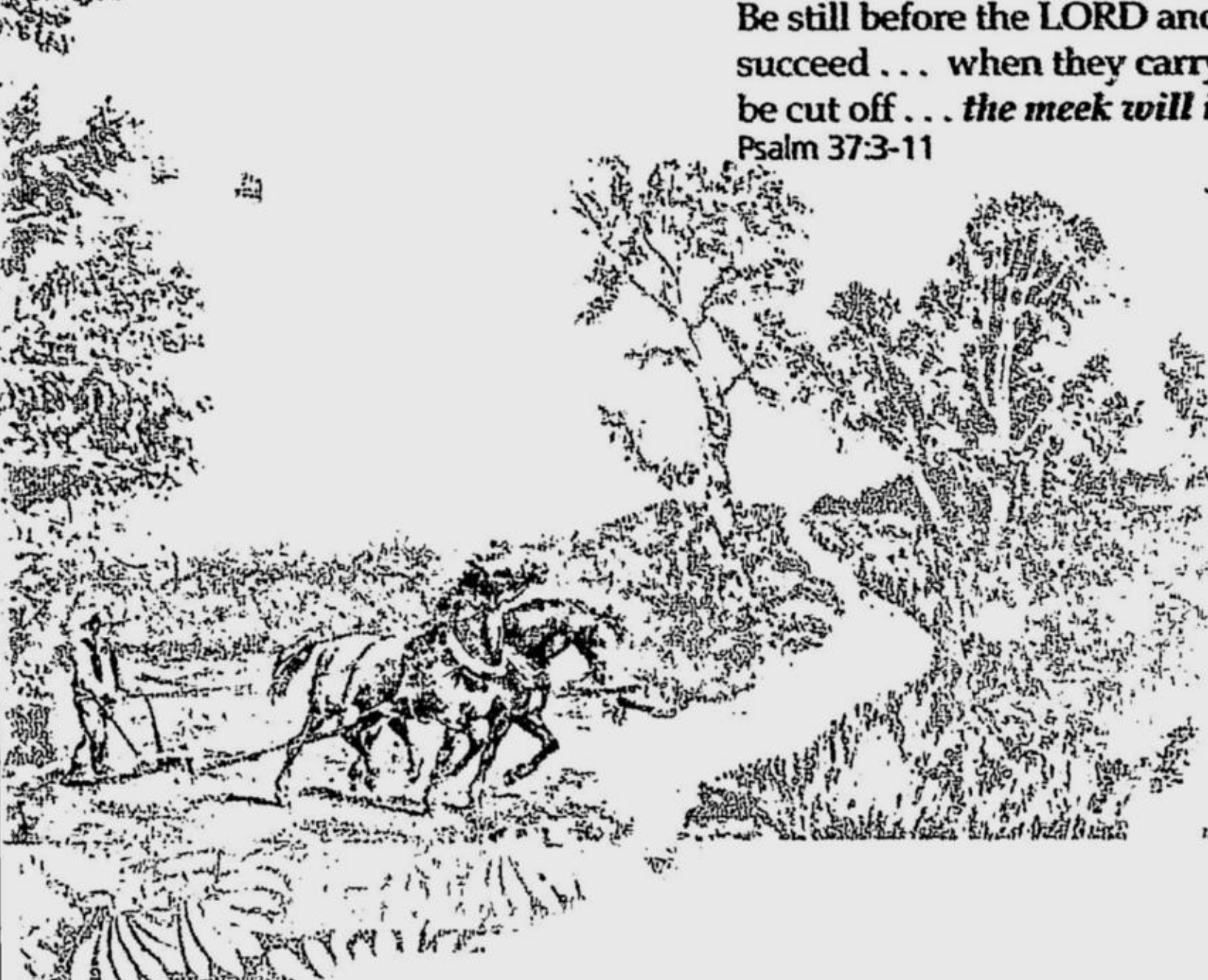
A forest developed over the years. **World War I**, ravaged humanity but missed him, because the forest hid him. After the war, his timberland was declared a national preserve. Springs came back. Brooks and rivers revived. Soon, a village of about ten thousand prospered in the once desolate wasteland.

A wonderland was created, because Elzea Bufier took the high road in low times. The high road means . . .

1. keeping to noble principles, in ignoble circumstances;
2. moving from our small lives to the larger world around;
3. deciding to make our small difference, not flowing with the crowd;
4. doing each day in pursuit of purpose;
5. finding our fulfillment in the day for the next endless years and beyond.

The wonders of God are revealed to those who traverse the high road.

Trust in the Lord and do good; **dwell in the land** and enjoy safe pasture. Delight yourself in the LORD and he will give you the desires of your heart. . . . He will make your righteousness shine like the dawn . . . Be still before the LORD and **wait patiently for Him**; do not fret when men succeed . . . when they carry out their wicked schemes . . . For evil men will be cut off . . . **the meek will inherit the land and enjoy great peace.**
Psalm 37:3-11



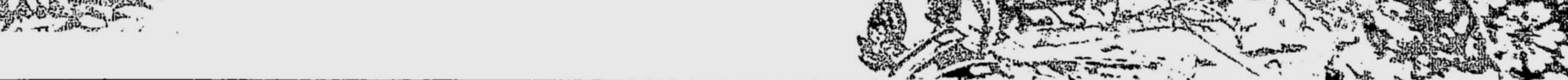
Keep to the high road with us



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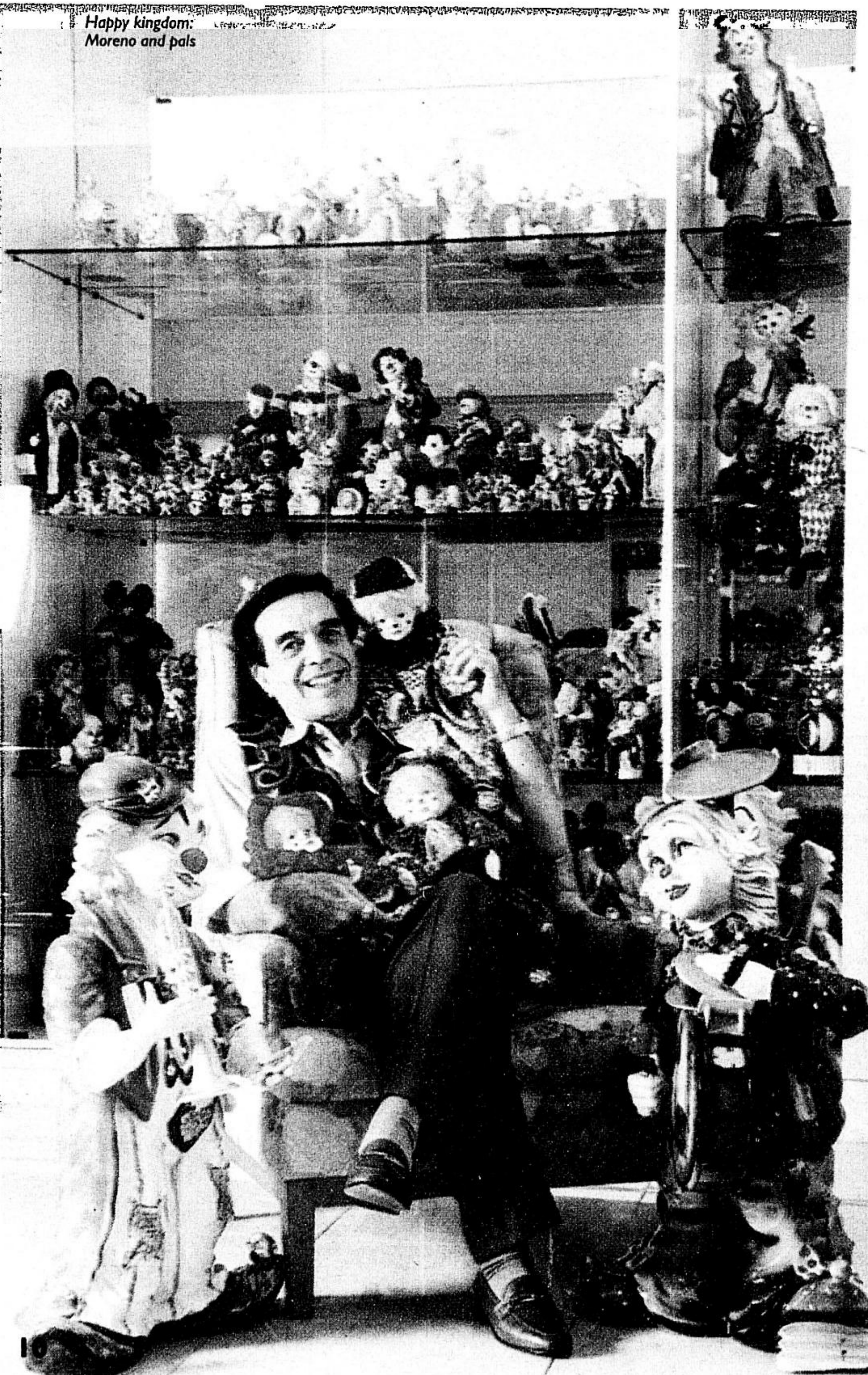
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From Clown to Clout

Happy kingdom:
Moreno and pals



OUTSIDE OF A JOINT SESSION IN CONGRESS, I HAVE NEVER SEEN SO MANY CLOWNS IN MY LIFE: CLOWN FIGURINES. CLOWN PAINTINGS. CLOWN PUPPETS. BOZOS. HARLEQUINS. JESTERS, JOKERS AND FOOLS. PUNCHES AND PAPAGENOS AND PAGLIACCIS. EVEN RONALD MCDONALD OR SOMEONE WHO LOOKS SUSPICIOUSLY LIKE HIM IS HERE. ONLY SAD-FACED EMMETT KELLY IS CONSPICUOUS BY HIS ABSENCE, BECAUSE THERE ARE NO SAD CLOWNS IN GERMAN MORENO'S HAPPY KINGDOM.

Kuya Germs started collecting clowns when he starred in Celso Ad. Castillo's "Payaso." His co-stars—which included Nora Aunor, Vilma Santos and scores of other big names who got their break in his TV show "That's Entertainment"—gave him the clowns as gifts, and they've been coming ever since, on his birthday and on the anniversary of his show.

"Isa lang ang favor na hinihingi ko sa nagbibigay," says Moreno. "Sana'yung naka-smile na clown, hindi'yung malungkot na clown. (I only have one request from the givers: that the clowns are smiling.)" One time, he recalls, the late Helen Vela gave him a sad-faced clown and he asked her if she could return it and get a smiling clown instead.

Maybe it's just showbiz superstition, bad feng shui, whatever. The figure of the tragic clown, laughing to keep from crying, is something Kuya Germs would rather not dwell on.

It is the day of Nida Blanca's funeral, but as they say in the entertainment biz, "the show must go on."

Next to his prized clown collection, pride of place in Kuya Germs' home goes to his private screening room, a state-of-the-art home theater setup complete with 100-inch DVD projection screen, surround sound, plush seating for a dozen or so guests, air-conditioning, carpeting, and outside, a scaled-down marquee that reads "Germs Cinema."

German Moreno has come a long way from someone who, as a boy, used to sneak into the movies because he didn't have the price a ticket.

"Mahirap lang kami," says Moreno, sixth of seven children. His father—a Spaniard from whom he inherited his *mestizo* looks—died early and Moreno's mother made ends meet by selling sandwiches and pastries to the salesgirls in Botica Boie and Aguinaldo's Dept. Store in Sta. Cruz, where the family lived in a small rented apartment.

For a time, an aunt paid for Moreno's schooling, but after high school, he had to help the family earn a living. First, he worked as a sidewalk vendor selling cigarettes and gum, then as a bus conductor, and later as a waiter and fry cook at the Times Café in Quiapo.

But what Moreno loved most of all was the movies. He would lose himself in the make-believe world of film stars in one of the many theaters near his home. So enamored was he with the movies that he sent out letters to 10 different theaters applying for any position, even janitor.

"Napakababaw lang ng gusto ko," recalls Moreno. "Kaya ko lang gustong mag-janitor sa sine, para makapanood nang libre. May suweldo pa (I had simple dreams. I wanted to be a janitor in a movie house so I could watch movies for free, and get a salary besides)."

The only problem was, he was underage at a time when labor laws were more strictly enforced. Finally, an aunt who knew the owner got him in as janitor of Clover Theater, for the princely sum of P25 a month.

It was 1957, and the live variety show in such venues as Clover and the Grand Opera House still had a few years left in it before television would take over. For 80 centavos, one could be entertained by the stars of the day such as Katy de la Cruz, Diomedes Maturan, Ruben Tagalog, the Wing Trio (later Duo) and the Reycard Duet in a program that combined comedy skits, songs, dances and musical numbers. Eventually, on its last legs, the live stage show degenerated into the bawdy "burles," but back then it was still wholesome family entertainment.

From janitor, Moreno was promoted to stage hand and gofer.

"Nauutusan ako – bili ka ng pansit, bili ka ng kanin. Takbo naman ako. Hanggang sinasama na nila ako sa mga open air show nila sa mga fiesta, naging extra. (I was an errand boy until I became an extra in their shows.)"

At Clover, Moreno learned the ropes, literally. As a *telonero*, he learned to put up sets and work backstage. One time, a skit called for someone to play Jesus Christ, and Moreno, being the only *mestizo* around, made his acting debut.

Good PR skills served him well, and he graduated from stagehand to talent scout to booking agent and finally assistant manager. In those days, actors worked both onstage and in films for the big studios, and Moreno soon got to know a lot of people in the Sampaguita studio. So much so that when television finally dealt the death blow to the live stage show, he had already made the leap to the movies.

"Aksidente lang ang mga pangyayari – nagtuloy-tuloy lang. Lumalapit lang ang opportunity sa akin (Opportunities just came to me)," he says.

In 1963, he signed a contract with Sampaguita Pictures. He was often called upon to host the Sampaguita Pictures' road shows. With his experience from the Clover days, Moreno was also put in charge of putting together musical numbers.

Eventually, Dr. Perez gave him the chance to direct two feature films.

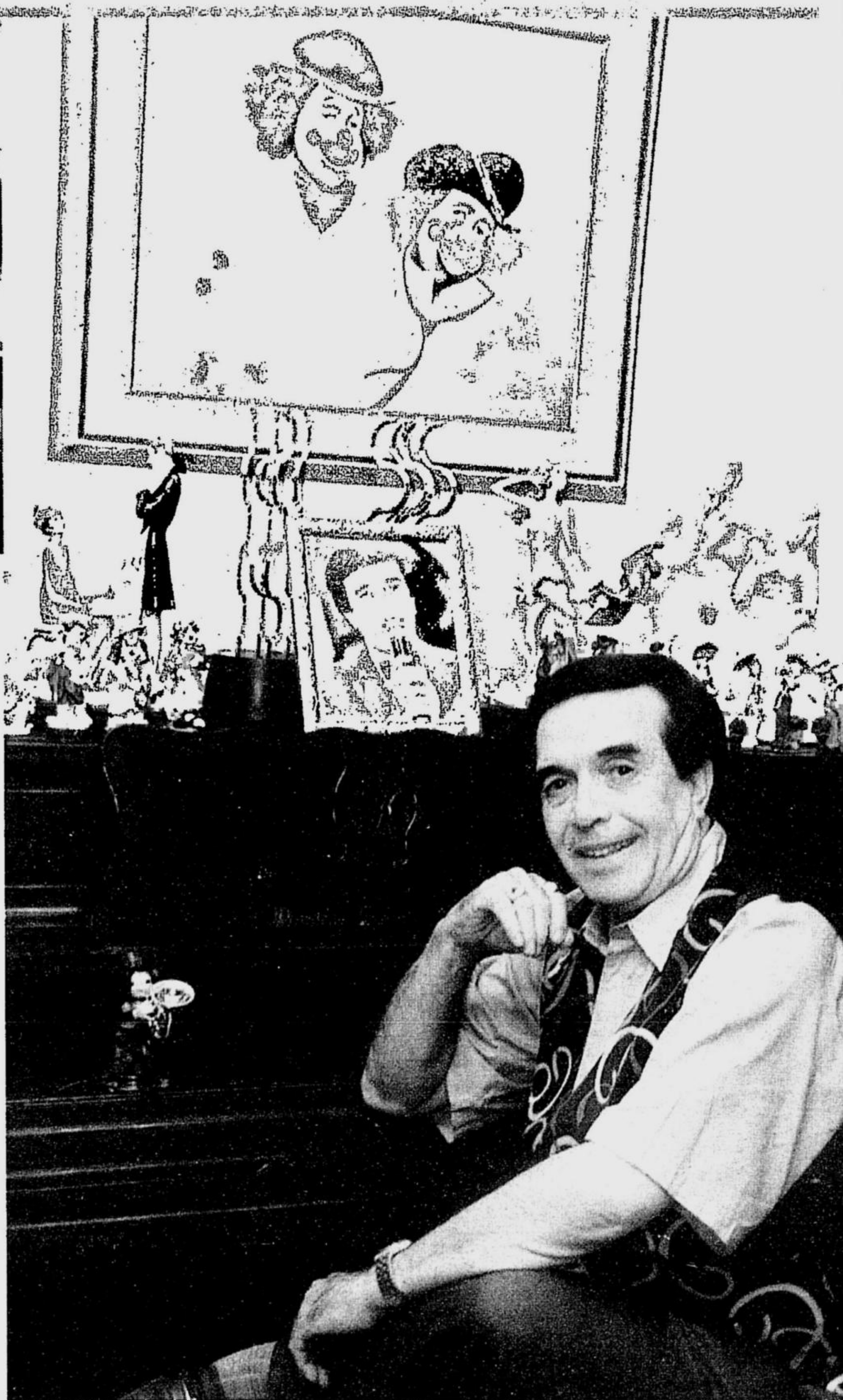
But Moreno's star shone brightest when it basked in the reflected glow of Nora Aunor and Tirso Cruz III. When the age of the Superstar dawned, *Kuya Germs* was again in the right place at the right time, playing the stars' skinny sidekick, and soon becoming a household name in his own right.

This in turn led to television, and the rest is showbiz history. For nearly three decades now, *Kuya Germs* has hosted his own variety show on GMA. Moreno is quick to acknowledge his roots.

"Actually, my TV show was patterned after the live stage shows at Clover," he says in Pilipino. "I always enjoy working with a live audience – *doon ko nararamdaman na tanggap ako ng tao*. I'm more comfortable with adlibs than a script. And that's why the young stars of 'That's Entertainment' are better; they've been trained before a live audience."

If there is one thing Moreno is proudest of, it is having given many young stars their first break in the business.

"It's more challenging to train stars who have no experience and then to see them rise to fame," he continues in Pilipino. "Sheryl Cruz used to sing off-key but she's now a recording star. Isko Moreno was from Tondo, making do with leftover food from Jollibee, and now he's a councilor in Manila. Si Donita Rose *nasa audience lang ng 'That's,'* when I asked her to join the show. Now she's MTV host in Singapore.



Si Ruffa, si Assunta, si Sharmaine Arnaiz, si Lea Salonga, si Billy Crawford who's now an international star... Thank God *napunta ako sa ganitong linya, na may nagawa ka sa mga bata na 'yan* (I'm glad I got into this business and managed to help these kids)."

There will be no tears for this clown.



The Heiress and the Street Children

She was born into privilege, but Consuelo Zobel Alger decided to spend her fortune on disadvantaged children as a tribute to her favorite saint

SHE WAS A YOUNG AYALA HEIRESS WHO MET AND FELL IN LOVE WITH A SECOND LIEUTENANT FROM THE UNITED STATES ARMY DURING THE COMMONWEALTH PERIOD. CONSUELO ZOBEL, WHOSE ANCESTORS FOUNDED THE AYALA COMPANIA, MARRIED THE DASHING JAMES "JIM" DYCE ALGER OF BROCKTON, MASSACHUSETTS IN 1940 IN CEREMONIES ATTENDED BY NO LESS BY PRESIDENT MANUEL LUIS QUEZON AND GENERAL AND MRS. DOUGLAS MACARTHUR. THE NEWLYWEDS THEN LEFT FOR AMERICA AND SETTLED THERE.

During World War II, Alger was severely wounded in Tunisia and came home a hero. Upon the general's retirement in 1967, the couple decided to move to Hawaii to do civic and philanthropic activities. In May 1986, at the age of 74, Alger died of a massive heart attack.

Less than a year after, his childless widow decided to set up a foundation that would benefit children primarily. Committing her personal fortune to what eventually became the Consuelo Zobel Alger Foundation, the elderly widow decided she would help improve the quality of life of disadvantaged children, women and families.

A devotee of St. Therese of the Child Jesus, Consuelo Zobel Alger y Montojo drew inspiration from her favorite saint. For the first board meeting of the Consuelo Foundation, the benefactress wrote: "(St. Therese) did what I wanted to do in life and that is—'to let fall from heaven a shower of roses'. She lived each day with unshakeable confidence in God's love. She said, 'What matters in life is not great deeds, but great love. My mission will begin after my death. I will spend my heaven doing good on earth'."

That was exactly what the Alger widow did, with her Foundation dividing its resources between Consuelo's adopted home in Hawaii and her country of birth. The Foundation has since supported various initiatives that help not just children, but women, cultural communities and other underprivileged sectors. Its subsidiary in the country, the Children and Youth Foundation of the Philippines (CYFP), which has a branch office in Makati City, supports more than 60 programs from Baguio in the north to Jolo in the south.

This year, the Foundation is making an effort to bolster the work being done by non-governmental organizations for the benefit of disadvantaged groups by launching the annual Consuelo Awards. To be given for the first time on Nov. 29, the death anniversary of its namesake, the Awards program is meant to recognize outstanding local NGOs that have made a significant difference in the lives of Filipino children, women and families.



Young and genteel: The Zobel sisters



"Doing good on earth": Alger looks to St. Therese of the Child Jesus for inspiration

Patti J. Lyons, whose frequent forays into the Philippines and meetings with Alger early on helped shape the Foundation's mission, says the Awards "will not only perpetuate the memory of a loving and generous benefactress but also serve to encourage all NGOs to strive for the highest standards of program delivery." Besides successfully carrying out the Foundation's vision, other selection criteria include conformity with organizational standards and, most importantly, program effectiveness.

"The Consuelo Awards recognize more than great effort; its focus will be on the attainment of significant, measurable, and replicable results," Lyons said. "The Awardees will serve as role models for other NGOs."

After weeks of deliberation, a four-member panel chose the Sanyang Multi-Purpose Cooperative, based in Jolo, Sulu and which has helped empower the seafaring Badjao cultural community, as the first recipient of the Consuelo Award. The nine-year-old group has distinguished itself in its implementation in the past five years of the Badjao Youth Development Program.

Known as the Philippines' Nomads of the Sea or seafaring gypsies, the Badjaos sought to change centuries-old practices to ensure the survival and proper development of their children. The decision to allow their children to have a formal education took courage as it went against the community's culture and tradition. Sanyang started as the Badjao People's Organization and evolved into a multi-purpose coop. Through the organization's efforts and advocacy, Badjao communities have now been fully integrated into other government service delivery activities, aside from education.

Getting honorable mention from the four-member panel of judges were the Pangarap Foundation, Inc. in Pasay City and the Families and Children for Empowerment and Development (FCED) in Manila, which help street children; CRIBS (Create Responsive Infants by Sharing) Inc. in Marikina City which started out as agency helping find stable and permanent living arrangements for abandoned infants and children and has since expanded its programs to reach out to sexually abused girls; and Shontoug Foundation in Baguio City, which targets children aged 4-6 belonging to the Ibaloi and Kankanaey tribes in the north.

The panel of judges for the Consuelo Award is headed by Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala, president and CEO of Ayala Corporation and grand-nephew of Consuelo. The Consuelo Awardee will receive a plaque of recognition and cash honorarium to be used to enhance and strengthen its work.

Pinky Aragon Choudhoury

Be Normal, Act Crazy

How normal is it for the US government to cluster bomb a country that has been ravaged by over 20 years of war, simultaneously drop food, and then warn the exhausted Afghans to watch out for unexploded bombs that may resemble the food packets?

NEW YORK—RIGHT NOW, TWO BUZZWORDS DOMINATE PUBLIC CONSCIOUSNESS: THE SEEMINGLY BENIGN "NORMAL," AND "ANTHRAX," ITS EVIL TWIN. EVERY PUBLIC OFFICIAL, FROM THE PRESIDENT TO THE MAYOR, ADVISES THE PERSON ON THE STREET TO GO ABOUT DAILY LIFE IN THE USUAL, I.E., "NORMAL" FASHION, BUT FOR THE MOMENT, THE MALIGNANT OTHER HAS THE UPPER HAND. HOW DO YOU ACT NORMAL WHEN THE MEDIA REPORT INCESSANTLY ON EVERYTHING YOU DIDN'T WANT TO KNOW ABOUT ANTHRAX BUT WERE TOO SCARED NOT TO ASK? THE FEAR OF DISEASE HAS BECOME AN OBSESSION, RESULTING IN A DISEASE OF FEAR — HARDLY THE CLIMATE TO BE NORMAL IN. NOR IS IT REASSURING WHEN THE POSTMASTER GENERAL SENDS YOU A MESSAGE ABOUT SUSPICIOUS MAIL —CURRENTLY THE FAVORED FORM OF DISPERSING ANTHRAX—AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT. YOU ARE, FOR INSTANCE, ASKED TO BE WARY OF ANYTHING MARKED "PERSONAL" OR "CONFIDENTIAL." AND IF IN DOUBT, ACCORDING TO THE WARNING, "DON'T SHAKE IT, BUMP IT, OR SNIFF IT." ONE THING NOT TO DO IS TO MICROWAVE YOUR MAIL — AS SOMEONE DID, CAUSING A SMALL FIRE IN HIS KITCHEN. SOMEONE OR SOME GROUP HAS THE WHOLE NATION IN NEAR PANIC THROUGH THE UNBELIEVABLY LOW-COST — AND LOW-TECH — TECHNIQUE OF USING THE MAIL.

The intelligence agencies seem not to have a clue as to who is or are behind this truly terrifying mode of attack. White supremacists, no fans of Washington, are now suspects. Iraq, as always, is mentioned. Maybe it's some loony scientist in the hinterlands. One memo from the Attorney General to an increasingly paranoid public is that the government has "vague yet credible evidence" of an impending terrorist attack. Hmmm. What exactly does that mean? Can evidence be vague and credible at the same time? Such pronouncements seem to me to border on the theological: "We have vague yet credible proof of God's existence"—discussion fodder for seminaries and theology classes but not for a skittish public. It's clearly an obvious ploy to get government watchdogs off the hook if and when another terrorist attack occurs, allowing them to say, "We did warn you." There is credible evidence that the country's intelligence bodies have a lack of it, and should be

renamed, for the moment, Lack of Intelligence Agencies.

As to the question of normalcy, my dictionary's definition of "normal" includes "conforming to a regular pattern," "free from mental disorder," "sane." Yet this city if nothing else is proudly, even stubbornly, nonconformist; New Yorkers are a paranoid lot, not to mention skeptical and cynical. The city has more than its fair share of misfits, artists, the beautiful, the bizarre, the famous, the certifiably insane, and the demagogic. Here the irregular is regular, the unexpected the expected — and so on. In effect, what New Yorkers are being asked to do is to resume what other Americans would consider *ab-normal* ways.

Part of the nationwide outpouring of sympathy for us, I suspect, is due to a sense of relief, that New Yorkers after all are vulnerable, that behind the tough, gritty armor we daily don and display to the rest of the world exist fragile psyches. What I see here in the traffic-choked, pedestrian-clogged streets of this metropolis, this grand, jazzy asylum, are New Yorkers acting like small towners bewildered by the real world and its geopolitics, and seeking the comfort food of patriotism: parades, displays of the flag, baseball and apple pie. In my Queens neighborhood, a largely South Asian immigrant enclave of Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, and Christians, the flag has suddenly become ubiquitous. You understand why the Stars and Stripes are everywhere when you see a police car parked everyday in front of a *madrasa* next door. These hardworking, peaceable émigrés have not forgotten India or Pakistan or Bangladesh or Afghanistan. It's that precisely they don't want to be harassed or assaulted for their provenance. So the flag turns into a protective coat — a necessary strategy in a country where difference is always a bone of contention. And at times a fatal signifier.

As for the call to be "normal," I can't help but wonder at how normal US foreign policy is. Is it normal to cluster bomb a country that has been ravaged by over 20 years of war, simultaneously drop food, and then follow that up with warnings to the exhausted, starving Afghans, to watch out for small unexploded bombs that in color and form may resemble the food packets? How normal is it for the United States government to have condemned Russia's war on Chechnya and then engage in a similar one? Is it sane to now tell the world we need to work together while backing out of the Kyoto Treaty on global warming? How normal is it to spend billions on a missile defense shield that would not have prevented the September 11 tragedy and the anthrax-by-mail assaults? Of course, patriotism considers war to be normal and peace a crazy notion. If this is what the government means by "normal," then no thanks. Why doesn't anyone discuss *matriotism*, where the priorities would be reversed? In the meantime, it seems to me, the only way to stay sane is to be crazy. Q



"Normal" gear for postal worker circa 2001

First Person

by Ma. Leonora "Noney" Padilla-Marzan

Coming Full Circle

I LIVED LIKE AN IMMORTAL, WITH JUVENILE DREAMS OF TRAVELING STRANGE AND DISTANT PLACES, PERHAPS WRITING A BEST-SELLER, EVEN CHANGING THE WORLD.

And then it happened. The pea-sized lump I first felt in my right breast which I had assumed to be an enlarged muscle fiber due to my daily heavy resistance workouts, rapidly grew into a firm lump the size of my thumb. My husband and I immediately consulted a surgeon, who advised mass excision. After the procedure, I was handed a vial containing fragmented tissues that I gave to the lab for routine study. After an unsettling week of waiting, a nervous lab clerk gave me my biopsy report, and life as I knew it changed completely.

I was diagnosed with breast cancer shortly before my 41st birthday. While the news was devastating to my husband, family and friends, I stoically accepted my circumstance, considering it an inevitable outcome of my long history of illnesses, a depressed immune system, a carcinogenic lifestyle and exposure to a toxic environment in which thrives a variety of dread diseases. This stoicism, mistaken by many as inner strength, comes from my circumscribed clinical orientation of the killer disease. As a physiotherapist, I amassed a mental fact sheet of sorts regarding cancer. During my internship in various hospitals and rehab centers in Manila and the North, I witnessed up close the extent to which cancer compromises one's independence and well being, even snuffing out the will to live.

My biggest fear came from thoughts of having to be entirely dependent on my loved ones to make what is left of my life dignified or, at the least, comfortable. But I cried only twice. The first was when I had my head shaved to forestall the shock of seeing my long curly hair fall out in clumps. Now I go about town sometimes hatless, almost flaunting my baldness — a symbol of my defiant attempt to live life as best I can despite admonitions from my sister, who insists that I might scare people away. The second time I cried was when my oncologist informed me of the financial costs of the eight-cycle long state-of-the-art chemo protocol that will prolong my life, increase my chances of survival and hopefully rid me of my disease.

I started treatment in July and up until my fifth session, I have been writing this piece in snippets while on my hospital bed. Writing about my ongoing experience is painfully liberating. It gives me the luxury of staying focused amidst disruptions caused by my protracted hospital confinements and anxieties over mounting medical bills and the chemotherapy effects I am forced to endure.

Friends often ask me how it feels to undergo chemotherapy and I tell them it is a harrowing ordeal, a literal baptism of fire. My first treatment was done in my oncologist's clinic where the drugs were infused intravenously for three hours. The next couple of days were a sampling of hell. It was like reeling in an endless fiery pit as I tossed in bed, my insides searing, unable to sleep, unable to think. I threw up uncontrollably, each vicious retching a pained spasm. Outside, the storm that took numerous lives raged endlessly — typhoon Ferie was a fitting backdrop to my relentless suffering. The experience left me dehydrated. Chemically shot. Physically spent. Irritable and hypersensitive. My subsequent treatments have since been at the Baguio General Hospital where I am initially hydrated and pre-medicated prior to my chemo. The side effects are now manageable but the stifling confines of a hospital take on an emotional toll even on the hardest of souls.

I do not claim to be an expert on the big C, but my experience as a cancer survivor has given me a more enlightened perspective about managing one's own health and making informed choices, about one's role in the patient-doctor partnership and about life in general.

Before deciding to undergo mastectomy last June, I sought the opinions of five doctors, one of whom specializes in a holistic approach to healing. During a lengthy consultation, she asked how I felt about

As a breast cancer survivor, I now measure my life not in terms of hours or days or months or years, but by the little acts of daring to be human, of making amends, of paying it forward and hurting a little



"I go about town hatless, a defiant attempt to live life as best as I can"

losing a breast. In exploring my innermost feelings about an anatomical part that for many defines womanhood, she came through as one who regarded me as a whole being, not a mere body part up for dissection. I also sensed she was contextualizing my illness from my point of view and obliging me to partake in my healing process. I have since realized that one's body, health, lifestyle, quality of life and treatment choices are a matter of personal responsibility. As much as I could, I read about my illness and share my newfound knowledge with other cancer patients I encounter in the ward, hoping that like me, it will help them make more informed decisions about health issues.

Our bodies have an enormous capacity for self-healing. We need to support this process and educate ourselves to maintain optimum health. While nothing can be done about heredity, sex and age, other risk factors like lifestyle and environment can be modified to lessen the risk of cancer. Because I am aware that these are damaging to my health, I shun fast foods, processed foods, meat, secondhand smoke, car exhaust and obnoxious people. I eat organic foods, drink carrot juice, and take immune-enhancing vitamins and antioxidants. I try to laugh heartily everyday, scream and cry when I need to. I read a good book now and then, watch funny movies and surround myself with peaceable people. I avoid those who, on the pretext of visiting, force their gods upon me, professing my need for redemption and ascribing my affliction to God's wrath. I am committed to the detoxification of my mind, body and spirit.

Being a resident-at-large in a state hospital that has become my second home has afforded me a changed perception of the self and the world. Looking beyond my personal tragedy and being a witness to the more critical circumstances of those around me has humbled and humanized me. It has strengthened my connectedness to other people and made me realize that we can become each other's healer.

Because cancer is also a psychosocial issue, the presence of a supportive community, a caring family and patient-centered medical practitioners are crucial to one's recovery. It is unfortunate though, how some doctors, steeped in their disease-focused approach, fail to regard cancer as having a more encompassing dimension. One only has to observe how briefly doctors linger at their patients' bedside and the quality of their interaction to have a glimpse of the alienating detachment that attend so called patient-doctor relationship. During my recent confinement, it was discomfiting to note how some doctors, during their ritual rounds, fail to recall their patients' names, with one even loudly referring to a patient by her bed number. I often wish that the nurses who routinely check my vital signs and ask the most intimate questions about my bowel and bladder habits would call me by my nickname and even just once ask what really scares me and what my expectations are regarding my therapy. I am quite lucky to have a surgeon and an oncologist who call me and their other patients by our nicknames, strive to know about our personal lives and acknowledge my right to be a partner in my therapeutic process. In the confines of the hospital though, I have yet to find the elusive Patch Adams, one who truly responds to the sufferings of the ill and makes laughter and being there for the patient truly wondrous acts of healing.

It is strange how misfortunes become opportunities to see people for what they really are. While fair-weather friends have distanced themselves and maintained a foreboding silence since the start of my ordeal, I have found a place in the hearts of many who, upon learning my plight, sought me out to give words of comfort and encouragement and share their blessings. From them I draw inspiration and courage. I am awed by the compassion that encircles me and thankful for the endless support given by my husband, family, friends, relatives and even strangers. My costly chemo treatment continues only because of the generosity of big-hearted folks rooting for me in my most definitive struggle.

I have now learned to measure my life not in terms of hours or days or months or years but by the little acts of daring to be human, of making amends, of paying it forward and hurting a little. There are a thousand and one things still left undone, like traveling strange and distant places, perhaps writing a book, maybe changing the world.

I have yet to come full circle.

The author is a former journalist for the local weeklies in Baguio City. She is pursuing her Masters in Health Services Management at the University of the Philippines and is looking forward to graduating in March.

jokes have become a staple of Pinoy, uh, bathroom life, or so he says. "Hey," Gary states, "my green jokes are really funny."

Another aspect of his comedy is its self-deprecating nature. Gary, who calls himself "the only abortion that lived," constantly makes fun of himself. "It's because Filipinos are oversensitive, they're onion-skinned," he explains. In the US, he goes on, when you roast someone, it's a sign of affection, but here people take it personally. "So I just make jokes about myself."

And those jokes work. Being with Gary is like watching a stand-up comedy act 24/7. He just can't help himself. Yet behind the seemingly crude remarks lurks a quick intelligence and impeccable timing.

That irresistible humor is preserved in his 14 books. His very first book, "My Brother is an Only Child" was actually bought by Bantam and sold in the US. Gary keeps churning those books out diligently. He recently launched not one, but three books from Anvil Publishing.

But writing joke books is no laughing matter, says Gary. "It's hard," he says. "I have to concentrate, and it takes about a month to just write all the stuff." Then comes the hard and meticulous part of actually editing the book. "You have to make sure all the jokes work," he says. In fact, it is something he plans to keep doing as long as he can. Heaven help us all.

He doesn't have high notions about his writing. "It's not literature," Gary says. But he is very proud of his books, of his ability to inspire guffaws and giggles just by poking fun at himself and at someone else's genitalia. Believe it or not, he thinks it's noble, this power to summon green sunshine amid the grey clouds. "I'm proud of my jokes," Gary Lising explains with a knowing smile. "There's so much misery in our country. At least I'm giving you a little laughter to take with you on a given day."

Pinoy NGA!

by Jess Abrera

Baduy



This Week

Art

Maninngal, Jerome Malic's installation exhibit, until Dec. 31 at the Bulwagang Fernando Amorsolo (Small Gallery) of the Cultural Center of the Philippines. For details, call 832-1125 locals 1504-1505.

Daanbakal, a photo exhibit on the modern-day Philippine railway system by Ogie Alcantara at the Alcove Photo Gallery, Filipinas Heritage Library until Nov. 30.



Khao Niew Som Tam, offered by the Benjarong Royal Thai Restaurant

A Centennial Celebration of Wood and Form, a solo exhibit featuring sculptures by Jerusalino V. Araos, ongoing at the National Museum, Padre Burgos Street, Manila.

Arturo Luz exhibits recent works of still life, landscape and performers at the Luz Gallery, Locsin Building, corner Ayala and Makati Avenues, Makati City until Dec. 6.

Functional Sculpture 2002, an exhibit of new furniture pieces and accessories at Firma, 616 Julio Nakpil St., Malate, Manila until Dec. 8.

Kuwentong Kama, a collaborative interactive art exhibit by Alma Quinto until Nov. 30 at Avellana Art Gallery, 220 Fresno St., Pasay City.

Music

The Bukas-Palad Music Ministry presents **A Christmas Praise**, a concert with Gerard Salonga and the Philippine Pops Orchestra at the Meralco Theater, Nov. 30 at 6:30 p.m. and Dec. 1 at 2:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Joining Bukas-Palad are Karylle, Noel Cabangon, Tony Lambino, Jeff Arcilla and the Ateneo Boys Choir. In the gala performances, special guests are The Company (Nov. 30) and Jose Marie and Lisa Chan (Dec. 1). Tickets are available at the Jesuit Communications Office with tel. nos. 426-5971 or 426-1023.

November Nights at Prince: Performing live every Wednesdays—Concord Band; Thursdays—The Freedom Band; Fridays—Big Bash; Rock & Roll with Snafu on Saturday's. Showtime starts 10 p.m. at the Prince (formerly The Prince of Wales), basement of New Plaza Bldg., Greenbelt Center, Makati. For details, call 815-4273/74.

Cellist David Pereira brings his intense and engaging music at his concert **Cello from Down Under** on Nov. 28 at St. Cecilia's Hall, St. Scholastica's College and on Nov. 29 at UP Visayas Auditorium, Iloilo City. For details, call 754-6135.

For this week's bands and schedules call:

- Hard Rock Café (893-4662-65)
- Virgin Café: QC (926-7982)
- '70s Bistro: 46 Anonas St., QC (922-0492)
- Hobbit House: 1801 Mabini St., Malate, Manila (521-7604)
- Strumm's: El Pueblo, Ortigas (637-3009)

Onstage

Dulaang UP pays tribute to this year's National Artist for Theater, Severino Montano, with the staging of **The Merry Wives of Manila** on Nov. 28 to Dec. 16 at the Wilfrido Ma. Guerrero Theater, 2/F Palma Hall, UP Diliman, QC. Set in the 1950s, *The Merry Wives of Manila* revolves around several wives of prominent professionals in Manila who plan to get back at their philandering husbands by throwing an unusual party. For tickets, call Dulaang UP Office at 926-1349 or text 0919-2518540.

There are a few remaining tickets to Ballet Philippines' Christmas presentation of *Edna Vida's Peter Pan* for the Dec. 7 and 9, 8 p.m. performances, plus a few more Balcony II tickets available for Dec. 8, 10 a.m., Dec. 10, 11 and 12 at 2 p.m. at the CCP Main Theater. For inquiries, call 551-1003 or 551-0221.

Tanghalang Ateneo presents when the purple settles, the story of Junior, a young man about to become a father for the first time by Fil-American playwright Francis Tanglao-Aguas until Dec. 1 at the Rizal Theater, Ateneo de Manila University. For inquiries, call 426-6001 loc. 5331 and 5121.

Food

RAJ Modern Indian Restaurant invites diners to try new dishes in their menu like Spinach and Bean Dumplings for starters, Duck and Apricot Curry, Spiced Mussel Curry—an interesting take on the popular French entree Moules Mariniere and for vegetarians, a Mixed Vegetable Curry. For dessert, finish off with a refreshing Mango and Coconut Crepe. For reservations call 525-4858. RAJ is located at 1820 Maria Orosa St., Malate, Manila.

Don Henrico's West Avenue corner Examiner Street in Quezon City now accepts reservations for different occasions. It can suit party packages according to your budget. Take-out packages for Christmas parties or private functions also available. It can also deliver to your offices or homes. For details, call 372-3777 or 372-4561.

The Benjarong Royal Thai Restaurant at the Dusit Hotel Nikko offers Thai cuisine daily for lunch and dinner. A typical Thai meal consists of an assortment of curry dishes, soup, salad, vegetables and sauces. For reservations, call 867-3333 ext. 3351.

Atbp

Sibikong Kabataang Pinoy Inc. will have its first **Sikap Alumni Conference** on Nov. 30 to Dec. 1 at Oblate Missionary Center, QC. All graduates of the leadership training program are encouraged to participate. For details, call 727-2293.

CFC Singles for Christ members all over the world will come together for a simultaneous global event for thanksgiving and celebration as well as empowerment for the year to come. The Metro Manila event will be held at the amphitheater of the Marikina Riverbanks on Dec. 1 at 7 p.m. For details, call 727-0681 to 86.

Business Start-Ups Expo 2001, a one-stop shop for budding and would-be entrepreneurs, Nov. 30 to Dec. 2 at the Megatrade Hall, SM Megamall. Interested exhibitors may contact 436-4711 to 12 and 929-7963.

Año ... Anyô 2002, a dinner dance cum fashion show presenting the haute couture look for year 2002 as interpreted by designers Rudy Fuentes, Eddie Baddeo, Eric Pineda, Toby Albrando, Jon Salcedo, Rex D., Francis Calquian, Edwin Uy, Rollie Graza, Lloyd Arceo and Frederick Alba, Nov. 28 at the Fiesta Pavilion of the Manila Hotel.

Pinoy Paranormal, Nov. 27, 6-8 p.m., Filipinas Heritage Library, Makati Avenue, Makati City. Come face-to-face with unknown powers, mystical events and strange beliefs as Jaime T. Licaucó describes some of his most dramatic encounters with these mysterious people, places and events. For details, call 892-1801.

Computer Graphics Courses: Imaging and Photography; Publishing and Production; Web Design and Development; Multimedia Video and Audio; Illustration and Design. For detailed course descriptions, contact Executive Editors at 887-3797 or 98 or email execedit@mozcom.com.

December Workshop Series: Dec. 1—Basic Fiction Writing; Dec. 2—Feature Writing; Dec. 8—Computer Assembly to be held at Earthlite, 4/F COD Bldg., Cubao, QC. For inquiries, call 417-1521.

Hymns and Harmonies, a chorale competition presented by Family Reader Magazine open to groups of 15-30 boys and girls currently enrolled in grade schools around Manila and are preferably in Grade 4-7. Participants are encouraged to present their own version of the piece "The Manger Carol," complete with costume, choreography and music on Dec. 1 at the Shangri-La Plaza Mall. Cash prizes await winners. For details, call 631-2859. **Christmas.com Bazaar 2001** will be held at Valle Verde 6 on Nov. 30 and at the Valle Verde Country Club on Dec. 1-2. For inquiries, call 364-5794 and 635-3348.

The Summit Lighthouse of the Philippines (1 Gen. Atienza St., San Antonio Village, Pasig City) offers free seminars to achieve spiritual vitality, improve personal relationships and handle stress. Schedule is as follows: Precipitation of Supply (Nov. 27, 7 p.m.); Seven Energy Centers (Dec. 4), and Practical Spirituality (Dec. 11). For details, call 631-4052.

An Open Climb to Tirad Pass (G. del Pilar, Ilocos Sur) will be held on Nov. 30 to Dec. 1 organized by the Ateneo High School Outdoors Club. Pre-climb and registration will be on Nov. 27, 6 p.m. at R. 4A, Ateneo de Manila High School. For details, call 0919-5907959 (Zack), 0917-5266803 (Jigger), 0917-8121782 (Joseph) or visit www.geocities.com/ateneooutdoorsclub.

Jehovah's Witnesses from Mandaluyong, Makati, Pasig and Pasay will gather at their Assembly Hall in Novaliches, Metro Manila for the second of eight three-day district conventions, beginning Nov. 30 to Dec. 2. With this year's theme "Teachers of God's Word," delegates from Baguio City, Pampanga, Zambales and parts of Metro Manila will likewise hold an English session on Dec. 7-9. Nationwide, the conventions, which include series of Bible lectures, will be held in nine languages, including the Philippine Sign Language. Admission is free. Visit www.iw-media.org for further information.

Calling all PCS Batch 85. There will be an alumni homecoming on Dec. 8 at the Paco Catholic School.

X-manila

Davao Convention and Trade Center will hold a **Christmas Bazaar** on Nov. 29, 30 Dec. 1 and 2, from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. at DAVCON, F. Torres St., Davao City. For inquiries call (082) 222-3494 to 96 local 206.

Baguio Arts Guild presents **Jozar Altur: Works in Evolution**, an exhibit of oil and acrylic paintings at the Green House Effect Gallery, Botanical Garden, Baguio City until Nov. 30.

The SUNDAY INQUIRER MAGAZINE welcomes listings of events in and outside Metro Manila. Please send announcements at least two weeks in advance, and include contact numbers for inquiries on schedules and tickets. You can reach us by e-mail at sim@inquirer.com.ph or by fax at 897-4811.